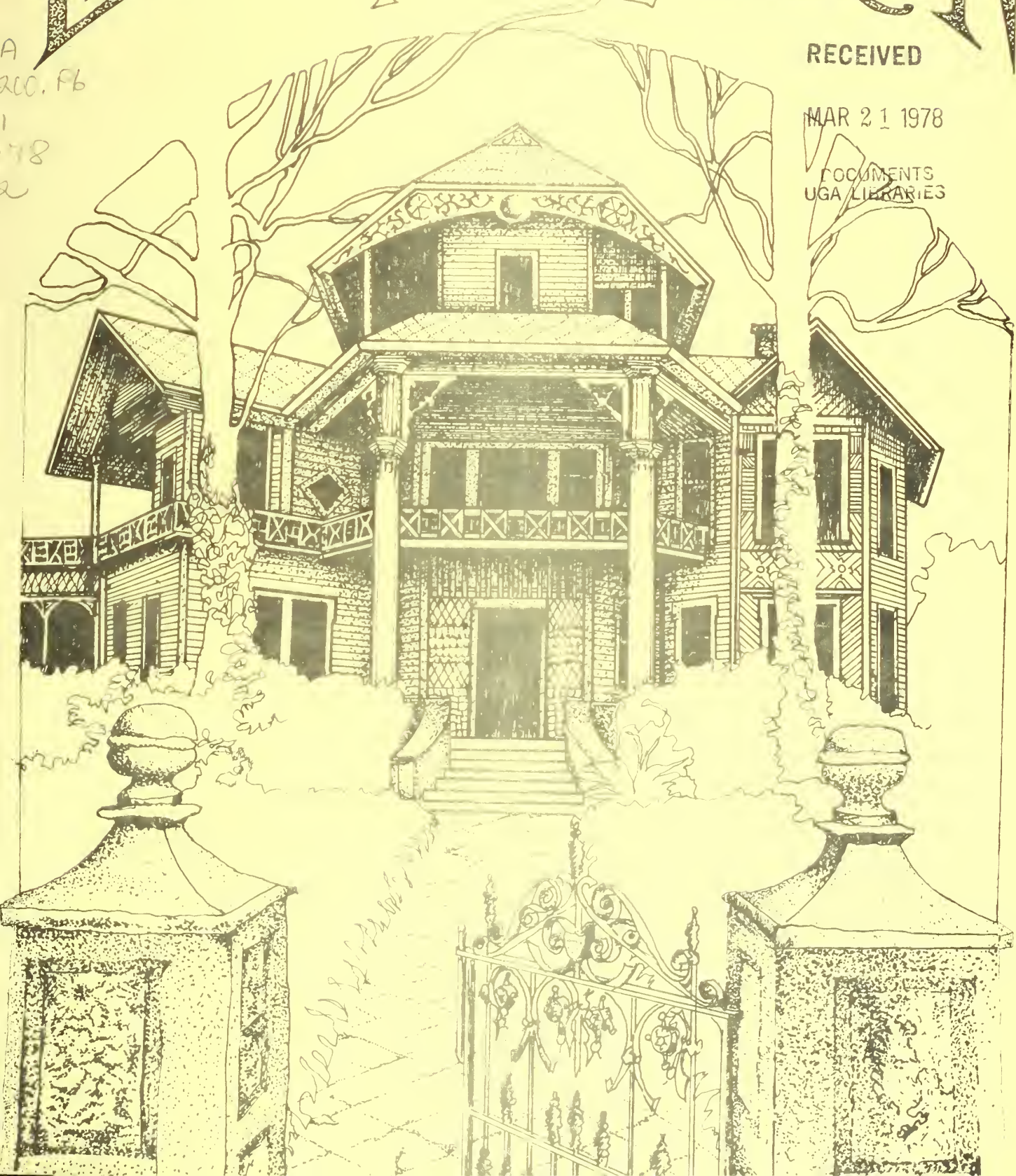


LAPHAM-PATTERSON HOUSE

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THE LAPHAM-PATTERSON HOUSE

A National Historic Landmark
Thomasville, Georgia

by

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.

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State of Georgia
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Planning and Research
Historic Preservation Section

1978

Cover illustration by Robert Gibson, staff artist for the Georgia
Historical Commission at the time the illustration was drawn, c. 1973.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
I. THE LAND	1
II. THE OWNERS	
<u>Chapter 1: Charles W. Lapham, Sr.: Builder and Owner,</u> <u>1884-1894</u>	
Business	7
Marriage and the Family	16
Thomasville, Georgia, and the Laphams	25
C.W. Lapham and Religion	26
<u>Chapter 2: C.W. Lapham and His Involvement with the</u> <u>Community</u>	
The Opera House	36
Pleasure Park	37
Lapham's Interest in Fauna	46
<u>Chapter 3: James Larmon and Family: Owners, 1894-1905</u>	
Business	51
The Larmons and Thomasville	58
The Larmons Since Thomasville	61
<u>Chapter 4: James G. Patterson: Owner, 1905-1926</u>	68
<u>Chapter 5: The James G. Patterson Family</u>	
Mary (Smith) Patterson	82
The Children	83
<u>Chapter 6: The House and Its Use During the</u> <u>Patterson Years</u>	93
<u>Chapter 7: Events at the Home During the</u> <u>Patterson Years</u>	105
A Typical Day	105
Education	107
Special Days	107
Holidays	108
Vacations	110
Other Activities at the House	111

III. THE ERA

<u>Chapter 1: Thomasville as a Winter Resort</u>	113
<u>Chapter 2: "The Season" at 626 North Dawson Street</u>	131

IV. ARCHITECTURE AND THE VICTORIAN PERIOD

<u>Chapter 1: The Architecture of the Lapham-Patterson House</u>	138
<u>Chapter 2: Tudor Rommerdall: Architect, Builder, Contractor</u>	160
<u>Chapter 3: Builders in Thomasville: 1884-1888</u>	184
Henry Arnold	184
J.W. Brinn	185
Charles W. Chase	185
James G. Dekle	186
Nat S. Eaves	186
Ben D. Fudge	190
John Z. Gottwals	190
James Gribben, Sr.	191
J.W. Gunn	191
Jake S. Kneller (Kniller)	191
Gustave E. Leo	192
Joseph M. Mayo	192
Alexander Miller	194
William Miller	194
Charles Poland	196
Captain Pierre N. Raynal	196
J.S. Salmons	196
The Stallings Brothers of Augusta	197
W.W. Thomas	197
J.A. Wood	198

THE APPENDICES

<u>Appendix A (The Hackett-Barnes Home)</u>	209
<u>Appendix B (Charles W. Lapham Directory Listings)</u>	214
<u>Appendix C (The Opera House -- Letters and Editorials) . .</u>	216
<u>Appendix D (C.W. Lapham and Pleasure Park -- Letters and Articles)</u>	219
<u>Appendix E (Abstracts of Tax Digests for Thomasville) . . .</u>	232
<u>Appendix F (Abstracts of Tax Digests for 1880-1905, Thomas County, Georgia)</u>	234

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Appendix G</u> (Distribution of Furniture of the Patterson Estate)	237
<u>Appendix H</u> (Weddings)	240
<u>Appendix I</u> (National Landmarks Statement)	242
<u>Appendix J</u> (Comparisons of Rommerdall's Houses)	244
<u>Appendix K</u> (Webb's Thomasville Directory, 1886)	246
 BIBLIOGRAPHY	 251

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS WITH SOURCES

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Detail of the Lapham-Patterson House from the reprint of the "1885 Bird's-Eye-View Map of Thomasville."</u> [Original located at the Thomas County Historical Society.].....	v
<u>C.W. Lapham (c. 1886).</u> [Original in possession of Mrs. C.W. Lapham, Jr., Los Angeles, California.].....	8
<u>C.W. Lapham (c. 1917).</u> [Original in possession of Mrs. C.W. Lapham, Jr., Los Angeles.].....	8
<u>C.W. Lapham's Business Card (c. 1877-78).</u> [Original in possession of the Chicago Historical Society.].....	10
<u>Advertisements for C.W. Lapham's Shoe Stores</u> [Originals in <u>The Elite Directory and Club List of Chicago.</u>].....	12
<u>Emma Lapham and son, Charles, Jr. (c. 1915)</u> [Original in possession of Mrs. C.W. Lapham, Jr., Los Angeles, California.]..	17
<u>Emma Lapham and children (c. 1890)</u> [Original in possession of Mrs. C.W. Lapham, Jr., Los Angeles, California.].....	17
<u>Emma Lapham's mother, Mrs. Portia Conger, and sister, Ella Goodyear</u> [Original in possession of Mrs. C.W. Lapham, Jr., Los Angeles, California.].....	20
<u>Emma Lapham on her Arizona ranch (c. 1910)</u> [Original in possession of Mrs. C.W. Lapham, Jr., Los Angeles California.].....	20
<u>C.W. Lapham (c. 1919)</u> [Original in possession of Mrs. C.W. Lapham, Jr., Los Angeles, California.].....	27
<u>The Lapham-Patterson House, an illustration from Thomasville (Among the Pines), 1891 edition</u> [Original in possession of The Thomas County Historical Society; reprinted 1967.].....	39
<u>Trademark of The Cincinnati Barbed Wire Fence Company (c. 1890)</u> [Original in possession of Mrs. Blanche Mogensen, Redwood City, California.].....	52
<u>The Lapham-Patterson House during the Larmon ownership</u> [from the 1899 edition of <u>Thomasville, Georgia, the Great Winter Resort Among the Pines</u> ; original in possession of the Thomas County Historical Society.].....	57

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Maria (Smedley) Larmon in 1896</u> [Original in possession of Mr. T.C. Gandy, Thomasville, Georgia.].....	59
<u>The Larmon Home in Cincinnati, Ohio</u> (c. 1920) [Original in possession of Mrs. Brooks Elms, Highlands, North Carolina.].....	62
<u>James G. Patterson, Jr., with his grandchildren</u> [Original in possession of Mr. Leroy B. Edwards, Jr., Thomasville, Georgia.].....	73
<u>Mary (Smith) Patterson with her grandchildren</u> [Original in possession of Mr. Leroy B. Edwards, Jr., Thomasville, Georgia.].....	74
<u>Floor Plan of the Lapham-Patterson House</u> [Original photographs from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources files, by the Georgia Historical Commission.].....	94
<u>Floor Plan of the Lapham-Patterson House</u> (continued) [Original photographs from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources files, by the Georgia Historical Commission.]...	95
<u>Property Alignment of the Hackett-Barnes House and the Lapham-Patterson House</u> , drawn by the author.....	101
<u>Direct Routes to Piney Woods Hotel</u> (map) [from <u>Description of the "New Piney Woods Hotel,"</u> reprinted 1967; original in possession of the Thomas County Historical Society.].....	114
<u>Thomasville Depot, built 1885-86</u> [Original drawings in possession of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad Company, Jacksonville, Florida.].....	117
<u>Hotels in Thomasville</u> [from <u>The Winter Resort Among the Pines</u> , by the Thomasville Board of Trade, c. 1904; original in possession of the Thomas County Historical Society.].....	120
<u>The Lapham-Patterson House from North Dawson Street</u> [Photograph by staff photographer David J. Kaminsky, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.].....	141
<u>The Lapham-Patterson House from corner of Webster and Dawson Streets</u> [Photograph by staff photographer David J. Kaminsky, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.]...	142
<u>The Lapham-Patterson House from Webster Street</u> [Photograph by staff photographer David J. Kaminsky, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.].....	143

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Close-up of the Lapham-Patterson House showing roof detail</u> [from a slide by the author].....	144
<u>The Lapham-Patterson House dining room</u> [Photograph by staff photographer David J. Kaminsky, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.].....	145
<u>The Lapham-Patterson House middle room</u> [Photograph by staff photographer David J. Kaminsky, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.].....	146
<u>The Lapham-Patterson House third floor</u> [Photograph by staff photographer David J. Kaminsky, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.].....	147
<u>Illustration of the center ceiling medallion of the sitting room</u> [Illustration by Mike Nunn, staff artist, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, from a photograph.].....	148
<u>The mantel in the sitting room</u> [Slide by R. Martin Willett, former curator of the Lapham-Patterson House.].....	149
<u>Details of ornamentation of the Lapham-Patterson House</u> [from a slide; original located at the Lapham-Patterson House].....	150
<u>Front door of the Lapham-Patterson House</u> [Photograph by staff photographer David J. Kaminsky, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.].....	151
<u>Rear of the Lapham-Patterson House</u> [Courtesy of <u>The Atlanta Journal, Sunday Magazine</u> ; photograph by Floyd Jillson]..	152
<u>Illustration of the central chimney</u> [Illustration by Mike Nunn, staff artist, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, from a photograph.].....	153
<u>Illustration of the parlor fireplace chimney</u> [Illustration by Mike Nunn, staff artist, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, from a photograph.].....	154
<u>The MacIntyre Building (1885)</u> [Photographic credit is unknown; original in possession of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.].....	167
<u>Details of the door frames of the Lapham-Patterson House and the MacIntyre Building</u> [staff slides by the author]..	168
<u>The Frank Hopkins House (c. 1885-86)</u> [Courtesy of Mr. Roy Lilly, Jr., Thomasville, Georgia.].....	169

	<u>Page</u>
<u>The Ballowe-Quinn House (c. 1886)</u> [from a slide by R. Martin Willett, former curator of the Lapham-Patterson House].....	170
<u>Cleveland Park (estate of J.W. Masury)</u> [from <u>The Winter Resort Among the Pines</u> , by the Thomasville Board of Trade, c. 1904; original in possession of the Thomas County Historical Society.].....	171
<u>Detail of the Allen Normal and Industrial School</u> [from <u>Thomasville (Among the Pines)</u> , 1891 edition; original in possession of the Thomas County Historical Society].....	171
<u>The MacIntyre Building mantel, arch and show window</u> [from slides by the author].....	172
<u>The Henry W. Hopkins House (1885-86)</u> [Courtesy of Mr. Jack Martin; original in possession of Elizabeth F. Hopkins Collection, Thomasville, Georgia.].....	173
<u>The A.H. Mason House (c. 1886)</u> [from a slide by R. Martin Willett, former curator of the Lapham-Patterson House; located at the Lapham-Patterson House.].....	174

INTRODUCTION

The late Victorian Era in America, usually considered to be the period following the War Between the States and lasting until the death of Queen Victoria in January of 1901, only days after the 20th Century began, is difficult to interpret. To some, it was a period of dark and forboding ideas -- an era during which people read romantic, maudlin novels, wore more clothes than were necessary for comfort, and were reticent to discuss many topics, sex being one subject which was particularly shunned.

To others, however, the period was one of great creativity -- especially in architecture, as evidenced by the myriad of homes and public buildings constructed during these final decades of the century. The Lapham-Patterson House is an example of a home which reflects the more enlightened view of this period. It does not lend itself to the "dark and forboding ideas," but rather to a light and airy feeling. The freshness leaves little doubt why the "Yankees" from Chicago and Cincinnati would move to Thomasville for the season to enjoy the house, the town, and the other visitors.

This home also represents the hopes and desires of the owners, or at least of the first owners-builders, since it is believed to have been built to their likes, specifications, and dreams. To fully understand it, one must learn something about the original family -- that of Charles Lapham, his wife and children -- because their personalities are reflected in the house.

The other families to live there -- the Larmons and the Pattersons --

had little effect on the design of the home, since they only purchased it, maintained it, and made minor changes. But they are no less important, because they, in turn, loved and respected the house enough to preserve it rather than replace it with something "better."

The Victorian Era also was characterized by the rather narrow view of women's roles; they were expected to remain in the shadows and appear only to bear children and preside at social events. But the history of the Lapham-Patterson House would seem to discount this, too, at least where the women of the families who lived in it were concerned. In reality the owners of the property, both Emma Lapham and Harriet Larmon, played major roles in their families; and, certainly, Alice Patterson Stevens' role in preserving the house in the face of many difficulties continued the tradition of these women in the perpetuation of the house as a living entity.

This paper seeks to elaborate on many aspects of the town of Thomasville, the families and the times that produced the Lapham-Patterson House and preserved it for us today.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My first visit to this State-owned historic site was on March 25, 1976. It was then that I realized the research needs of the site. I was later assigned this site as a research project as part of my duties with the Historic Preservation Section of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. I began to gather the prior research, and after talking with the curator and interpreter, I decided to begin filling the gaps and complete, as well as I could, the story of the owners, and thus of this house.

Much of the groundwork had been done long before I began. Previous researchers whose finds are included are: John A. Patterson, former curator at this site, now with the State of Illinois Department of Conservation; R. Martin Willett, curator of the site 1974-1977; Emma Jane Neelley, now of Vermont, and James Gribben, III, of Thomasville. All of their efforts have been woven into the fabric of this paper, the purpose of which is to provide the curator, interpreter, and visitor with as much information as possible concerning the site.

When I began, the families and descendants of the first two owners, Lapham and Larmon, were unknown. I have located, corresponded and talked with the descendants of both lines. Among those who have helped with this report are the following: Mrs. C.W. Lapham, Jr., the last of the Lapham family line; her husband's cousin, Mr. George F. Goodyear of Buffalo, New York, the Conger family historian for Mrs. Lapham, Sr.'s family; and on the Larmon line, Mrs. D.E. Mogensen (Blanche Larmon) of Redwood City, California, and Mrs. Brooks Elms (Harriet Larmon) of

Winter Haven, Florida, and Highlands, North Carolina, who are the two surviving grandchildren of James Larmon, the second owner. All have and still are contributing to this report as it is written and to the museum as it is being created. Mrs. Alice Patterson Stevens of Savannah, the last private owner of the site, has contributed much valuable information. Other descendants of James G. and Mary B. Patterson have assisted in this report as well, especially Mrs. Bernard Lanigan, Mrs. Osgood Clark, Mrs. Leila P. Edwards of Quitman, Leroy Edwards, Jr., of Thomasville, and Mrs. Loy Carver of Decatur, Georgia.

Appreciation is also extended to Patricia Lee Carter Deveau and Bill Townsend of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Sites Interpretation Section, for their research questions and insights as the story was uncovered.

The research has taken on major proportions since most of it has dealt with sources outside of Georgia and so far has covered 12 states: Illinois, Michigan, New York, Vermont, Arizona and California for the Laphams, and Florida, Kentucky, Missouri and Ohio for the Larmons. Since the Patterson family still resides in Thomasville, research on that aspect has largely been confined to that city, but it has also included research in South Carolina and North Carolina.

- Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.
Atlanta, Georgia
July 1, 1977

THE LAND



1885 Bird's-Eye-View Map of Thomasville, detail showing the Lapham-Patterson House and grounds. The house is at the confluence of the marks.

THE LAND

The site of the Lapham-Patterson House has been included within the Thomasville city limits since the town was surveyed in 1853.¹ [Since this report relates to the 1880s and the structures built on the site at that point, a chain of title will not be traced for the property from the time the land was distributed by the Land Lottery of 1820 to that time.] The earliest known owner was George A. Dekle of Jackson County, Florida, who sold Lots 47 and 48 of Block 4, Column 3, of the town of Thomasville in 1867. The new owner, Colonel Archibald Thompson MacIntyre (1822-1900), paid \$1,000 for the land and subsequently owned this property for 14 years.² A lawyer and Civil War veteran, MacIntyre served as a Democratic congressman for one term, 1871-1873.³

MacIntyre sold the property in 1882⁴ for \$600 to David B. Paxton and his wife, Florida V., of Thomas County, who were also owners of a house on Dawson Street. Very active in the turpentine business, Paxton (then of Colquitt County) eventually sold his interests around Thomasville in 1886 and moved to Savannah.⁵ He had sold this property by 1884 to Benjamin F. McCormick for \$2,000.⁶ A steep jump in price, such as for this half of a city block, is usually indicative of a structure having been added to the property (during the Paxtons' brief ownership). However, when the property came into the hands of C.W. Lapham and Ephraim Hackett (although being listed in their wives' names), it was noted in the local newspaper that they were "to build in the fall," indicating nothing of substance had yet been built.

According to the newspaper, McCormick sold the lots jointly to C.W. Lapham and Ephraim Hackett on April 3, 1884,⁷ for \$1,936.50 in promissory notes, having owned the property for an undetermined, but short period of time.⁸ In reality, McCormick's transactions were with the wives of these two men and were transformed from the promissory notes of April of 1884 to fee-simple deeds on December 27 of that year. At that time, McCormick sold Mrs. Emma M. Lapham her portion for \$1,118.25,⁹ and for the same amount, a similar share was sold to Mrs. Harriet G. Hackett.¹⁰ [A further examination of these transactions will be discussed in the appendix concerning the Hackett-Barnes House.]

Mrs. Emma M. Lapham sold the house and lot on March 21, 1894, to James Larmon of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, for \$4,000.¹¹ Mrs. Lapham and Mr. Larmon had a mortgage for a short while, but the untimely death of Larmon late in 1894 caused the settlement of the mortgage in early 1895.¹²

Mrs. Harriet E. Larmon, widow of James Larmon of College Hill (a community near Cincinnati), Ohio, sold the house and lot, for an undisclosed amount, to James G. Patterson on September 15, 1905.¹³ Following Patterson's death on April 30, 1926, the property passed to his wife, who died there August 25, 1929.

The house then passed into the joint ownership of the six Patterson children, in which state it remained until Alice Patterson Scarborough purchased the shares of her siblings in July of 1937 upon her return to the United States from 18 years in the Canal Zone.¹⁴

The house was entered on the National Register of Historic Places by the Department of the Interior on August 12, 1970.¹⁵ After being

notified of the willingness of Mrs. Alice Patterson Scarborough Stevens [she had remarried] to sell the house, negotiations began between Thomasville Landmarks, Inc. and the Georgia Historical Commission-for possible acquisition of the house. On October 9, 1970, the Commission members voted unanimously to accept the house, then called the Lapham-Scarborough House, as a gift to the State to exemplify the Victorian Era in Georgia.¹⁶ On November 28, 1970, Mrs. Stevens, then of Gadsden County, Florida, deeded the land and the house to the City of Thomasville for Thomasville Landmarks, Inc., to be transferred to the Georgia Historical Commission.¹⁷

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Thomasville resolved on January 11, 1971, to petition the State Properties Acquisition Commission to accept title to the Lapham-Patterson House, which the city had acquired from the Patterson family. On February 10 of that year, B.B. Earle, Jr., city attorney for Thomasville, wrote Mary Gregory Jewett, executive director of the Georgia Historical Commission, concerning the necessary arrangements. He mentioned in this letter that the city wanted to include a reversionary clause in the deed to the State which would state that if the house was not used as a museum by the State, it would revert to the city.

Mrs. Jewett, in turn, wrote to State Attorney General Arthur K. Bolton on February 22 (with copies going to Governor Jimmy Carter, the State auditor, and the State budget officer), requesting that the State accept the gift of the house from the City of Thomasville. Later, the Commission made a formal request to the State Properties Acquisition Commission that the State accept the property.

In a deed dated November 23, 1971, the City of Thomasville transferred the ownership of the house to the State of Georgia, the only restriction being that the site be called the "Patterson Home Place." [No reversionary clause was included, since it was against State policy to accept any land with anything less than fee-simple title.]¹⁸

On January 6, 1972, the State of Georgia began restoration of the site, and in June of that year, an archaeological excavation was begun on the grounds. Bruce King was selected as the first site superintendent, and in September of 1972, John A. Patterson succeeded him. By November of that year, the home was open to the public five days a week. On May 1, 1974, R. Martin Willett, a native of Thomasville, became curator, a position he held until fall of 1977.

The culmination of the State's preservation and restoration efforts were realized when the house was dedicated as a National Historic Landmark on November 15, 1975.²⁰ Dr. William Murtaugh, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, was present to present the plaque and certificate. Mrs. Thomas L. Williams, Jr., president of Thomasville Landmarks, Inc., accepted the plaque on behalf of the State. She had long been instrumental in saving the home.

FOOTNOTES

The Land

- ¹ 1853 Map of Thomasville. Originally surveyed by Jeremiah Wilson; copied in 1859 by Lebb Dekle; copy at Surveyor General Department.
- ² Thomas County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deed Book L (1867-1871), p. 255. (On Microfilm Reel 4-71 at Georgia Department of Archives and History.) Deed dated November 16, 1867, and recorded May 10, 1869.
- ³ Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1949 (1950), p. 1488.
- ⁴ Thomas County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deed Book R (1881-83), p. 302. (On Microfilm Reel 4-75 at Georgia Department of Archives and History.) Deed dated March 16, 1882, and recorded March 29, 1882.
- ⁵ The Thomasville Times, November 13, 1886, p. 3, c. 2-4; several articles related to D.B. Paxton's departure from the local business community.
- ⁶ Thomas County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deed Book T (1884-85), pp. 338-39. The deed is actually dated November 1, 1884, and recorded November 7, 1884, but this does not agree with the newspaper account of the sale by McCormick to Lapham and Hackett [see below], and thus the Paxton to McCormick deed was erroneously not written earlier.
- ⁷ The Thomasville Times, April 5, 1884, p. 3, c. 6. The fact that the transactions were done in the names of Mrs. Lapham and Mrs. Hackett was apparently a legal technicality, as their husbands paid taxes on the property and were spoken of in the newspaper as the owners.
- ⁸ The deed having been dated and filed late, there is no way to determine when Paxton sold to McCormick except perhaps by locating the item in the newspaper.
- ⁹ Thomas County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deed Book T (1884-85), p. 460. Deed dated December 27, 1884, and recorded December 29, 1884.
- ¹⁰ Ibid., p. 461. Dates are the same.
- ¹¹ Thomas County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deed Book CC (1893-94), pp. 590-91. Deed dated March 21, 1894, and recorded March 27, 1894.
- ¹² Ibid., Mortgage Book O (1894-95), pp. 74-75. (On Microfilm Reel 5-47 at Georgia Department of Archives and History.) Instrument dated March 27, 1894, and recorded that date. It was settled in March of 1895. The whole instrument is highly illegible.

- 13 Ibid., Deed Book PP (1904-05), pp. 502-03. (On Microfilm Reel 5-24 at Georgia Department of Archives and History.)
- 14 Telephone interviews with Alice Patterson Stevens of Savannah in the spring of 1977 by the author.
- 15 Letter dated August 12, 1970, Ernest A. Connally to Mary Gregory Jewett; located in Lapham-Patterson House National Register File, Historic Preservation Section.
- 16 Minutes of the Georgia Historical Commission, located in the files of the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (eventually to be transferred to the Georgia Department of Archives and History). Letters indicating negotiations were underway are located in the Lapham-Patterson File, Historic Preservation Section. Additional letters contained in the Lapham-Patterson National Register File, Historic Preservation Section.
- 17 Thomas County, Ga., Superior Court, Deed Book 54, p. 468; written November 28, 1970; filed December 1, 1970; recorded December 2, 1970.
- 18 Lapham-Patterson House Deed File, Recreation and Interpretive Programming Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources; additional letters in the Lapham-Patterson House National Register File, Historic Preservation Section.
- 19 Various newspaper clippings in the files of the Historic Preservation Section and personnel files, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.
- 20 Notification announcement dated November 10, 1975, from the director of the National Park Service; located in Lapham-Patterson House National Register File, Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Dedication took place, as witnessed by David M. Sherman, then State Historic Preservation Officer for Georgia, now director of the Office of Planning and Research, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

THE OWNERS

Chapter 1

CHARLES W. LAPHAM, SR.: BUILDER AND OWNER, 1884-1894

Business

Charles Willard Lapham, born July 21, 1852, in Danby, Vermont,¹ stemmed from a background of people who had lived in that small community for several generations, many of whom had been in the tanning and leather trade and were followers of the Quaker faith.² Although his family moved halfway across the expanding nation, its members continued in these traditions. Charles himself became a manufacturer and retailer in the boot and shoe industry, as well as a wholesaler for over 20 years, and he also continued in the Quaker tradition,³ passing on to his sons his religious beliefs.⁴

Charles' parents were Joseph Button Lapham (1824-96)⁵ and Lydia Staples Lapham (1828-1915),⁶ both natives of Danby, whose fathers, Elisha Lapham (1792-1875) and Willard Staples (1785-1858), had moved across the Vermont-New York border to live, work, and die in Granville, New York.⁷ Shortly after young Charles' birth, the Laphams moved to Michigan, where his only sibling, Chester Elisha, was born in 1857.⁸

Having spent a decade or so in the Kalamazoo area, Joseph Lapham and his family moved to Chicago, apparently arriving around 1870.⁹ At age 46, Charles' father transferred his business interest to Chicago from Kalamazoo,¹⁰ and in 1871, his firm of Lapham and Waterbury appeared as a leather dealer at 163 Kinzie Street, with his residence being listed at 206 Erie Street.¹¹ Joseph Lapham's firm later expanded into the tanning and leather trade, as well as shoe findings.¹²



C.W. Lapham
c. 1886



C.W. Lapham
c. 1917

In this year, during which the Great Fire of Chicago raged through the city, Charles Lapham was listed as a clerk, and it is known that he worked for George L. Congdon, a boot and shoe manufacturer and dealer about this time.¹³ Nineteen years old at the time of the Great Fire, which occurred on October 8, 1871, Charles' life was to be greatly affected by this event. It almost destroyed his health and was the reason for his search for a health resort -- a search which led him to Thomasville, Georgia, for his first visit around 1882.¹⁴

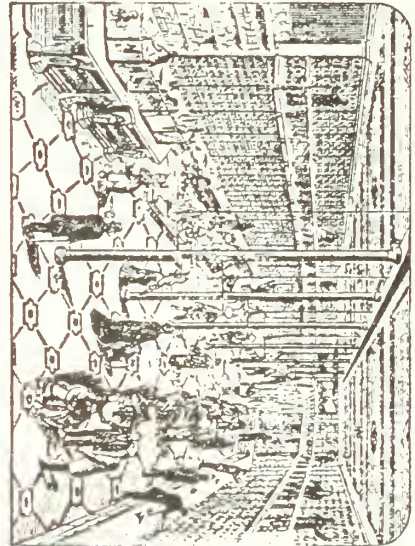
Even though the fire affected him psychologically perhaps as much as physically, Lapham was in business for himself in April of 1873, by the age of 21. His father furnished the capital for him to open a "boots and shoes" store at 985 West Madison Street. Charles continued to live at home until his marriage.¹⁵ His father continued his co-partnership as Lapham and Waterbury leather tanners on Kinzie Street.¹⁶

Charles Lapham's business flourished during the decade of the 1870s, as Chicago was rebuilding from the effects of the fire. Extending his enterprise, he branched out and had at the peak of his career four shoe stores under his management. The C.W. Lapham Company was considered to be a "good risk," and in 1874, a credit report concerning him indicated that he was considered reliable, had a \$6,000 inventory, and had no outside liabilities. His father's continued backing was a major point in his favor, at least in the eyes of his creditors, and another relative, his younger brother Chester, was now involved in the business, Charles having hired him as a clerk in one of his stores that year.

In 1875, it was reported that Charles was "steady and prudent," and his father was considered to be "well to do." In the following year, it



C. W. Lapham
 MANUFACTURER, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
 DEALER IN
BOOTS & SHOES.



LAPHAM'S PALACE. The most elegant and one of the largest establishments of its kind in the world. HEADQUARTERS for the latest styles and largest stock at lowest prices.
Nos. 329, 741, & 1,000 W. Madison Street.

was mentioned that Charles bought his goods in the East. By 1877, he owned stores at three locations (Nos. 329, 741, and 1000 West Madison Street), and in November of that year, Lapham's own statement was recorded in the credit ledgers and indicated that he had merchandise in these stores worth \$25,000 and no other assets. He owed \$4,500 on goods in the stores and had orders costing \$2,700 at a factory in Rochester, New York. Of the \$4,500 he owed, \$1,000 was to the bank, \$2,500 was to his mother, and \$1,000 was to his father's firm.

Lapham seems to have begun his business at 1000 West Madison in the spring of 1873 and expanded to No. 741 two years later. The store at 329 West Madison was probably begun around 1877. His sales in the previous year were about \$40,000, with a profit of 35 to 40 percent, and he rented his offices for a total amount of \$1,590 annually. His business was insured during 1877 for about \$17,000. In the report made that year, it was mentioned that his younger brother was managing the store at 741 West Madison, while Charles was managing the other two. The person making the report that year indicated that Charles was "a smart young fellow" in good "repute" with buyers and sellers, and he was felt to be "steady, industrious, careful and reliable." Also, said the R.G. Dun reporter, "if he does not go too fast, [he] will probably make some money." His worth was estimated at \$7,000.

In June of 1879, Lapham's business had "fallen off a little," and he changed the name of his firm to "C.W. Lapham & Brother," having formed a partnership in the fall of the previous year with his brother. Chester had invested about \$3,500 in the firm and had no other assets. The company sales that year amounted to \$60,000, and its debts were extremely few, with most of these owed to family members.

Wholesale
AND
Retail.

{ C. W. LAPHAM, }

Manufacturing
AND
Custom Work.

Fashionable Shoe Dealer.

IMMENSE STOCK FINE AND MEDIUM GRADES.

ALSO, IMPORTED SHOES.



Interior of Store No. 320 W. Madison Street.

Four Stores Concentrated Into One Mammoth Emporium.

Same Quality Goods as South Side Stores Carry,
At Very Much Less Price.

Ladies' Best French Curo Kid Button (Hand Sewed), \$5.00.

Surely \$1.00 Saved on Every \$5.00 Purchase.

ONE PRICE. ALL GOODS MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES

Send for Splendid Catalogue of Styles.

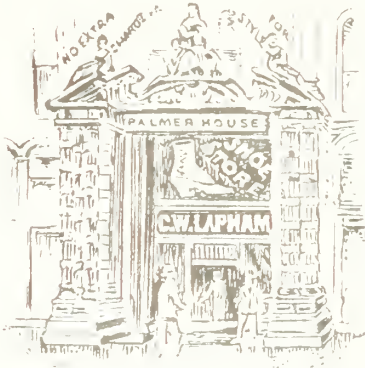
1884-85

"Elegant Shoes Made to Measure at
Very Reasonable Prices."

Palmer House Shoe Store.

NEW PAIRS GIVEN FREE IN CASE OF UNREASONABLE WEAR.

Finest
Quality
and
Latest
Elegant
Styles.



Superior
Medium
Grades
and
Lowest
Prices.

179-179½ STATE ST., TWO DOORS SOUTH OF ENTRANCE.

The Most Magnificent Shoe Establishment
in the West.

ARTISTIC STYLES A SPECIALTY.

WE GIVE WEST SIDE PRICES FOR FINE
SOUTH SIDE GOODS

Attention paid to customers with out regard to price of
Goods desired.

1888-89

C. W. LAPHAM'S Palmer House Shoe Store

179 & 179½ STATE STREET.

The Most Magnificent Shoe
Establishment in the West!

Artistic * Shoe * Wear!

Fine Shoes and Latest Styles a Specialty. Medium
Grades to Suit All.

We give West Side Prices for
Fine South Side Goods.

Attention paid to Customers without regard to
Price of Goods desired.

West Side Store

329 W. MADISON STREET

1887-88

Elegant Footwear made to Measure at Extremely
Reasonable Prices.

If You or your Friends

Want very Stylish, Fashionable

SHOO'S Without Extra Charge
for Style,

AT ECONOMICAL PRICES.

—CALL AT—



179 AND 179½ STATE STREET.

The most magnificent Shoe Establishment
in the West.

New Pairs Given Free in case of
Defective Wear.

1889-90

In June of 1880, just prior to Charles' marriage, he and Chester were still living with their parents and were considered to be men of excellent character and habits. An advertisement for the business that year promoted their "custom and readymade work ... telephone communications in all stores." Strong competition was forcing them to discount all the goods they bought, but even with this problem, the business was showing a profit each year.

The report for June of 1881 indicated that the brothers had dissolved their partnership and were working alone, Charles having taken the store at 329 West Madison. He had married since the previous report, and it was mentioned that his wife's assets were estimated at \$60,000 to \$75,000. These finances were "well invested," and it was reported that "she gets the income."

In December of 1882, Charles purchased another store, located at 311 West Madison. Possibly bought with the intention of reselling it quickly, Charles did sell the store by June of the following year. In the last extant hand-written report by R.G. Dun & Co., made in January of 1884, Charles was doing a safe business and was considered to be a good credit risk.

The post-1884 credit reports for the Lapham firm have not been located, but his advertisements for those years reveal his prosperity and the diversity of his business. A series of volumes, Elite of Chicago (1882-83 and 1883-84) and the subsequent The Elite Directory and Club List of Chicago (1884-85 - 1890) offer valuable insight into Lapham's career. Although it appears that he did not place any major advertisements in the city or business directories and none have been found in the newspapers of the time, he did advertise in these social

directories, see Page 214 of this report.]

In 1882-83, Lapham reported that he dealt with wholesale, retail, manufactured and custom work and that he was the "Fashionable Electric Shoe Dealer," who also handled imported shoes. The following directory's advertisement contained no mention of "electric," and it may have been that the word had confused patrons of the directory. Lapham apparently had been trying to indicate that his shoes were sold under electric lights, a phrase he also omitted from the advertisement.

The 1884-85 directory, which the preface indicated contained addresses of 8,000 of the city's most prominent citizens, reported that Lapham's store was now consolidated into "One Mammoth Emporium" at 320 [actually 329] West Madison Street. He advertised manufacturing and custom work sold at wholesale and retail prices, and he also advertised that a catalog could be ordered, although no copy of this has been located as of yet.

The Palmer House Hotel, one of the city's finest business locations, was the site of Charles Lapham's new store, according to the 1887-88 directory. This hotel had been rebuilt by Potter Palmer after the Great Fire. Lapham's "Palmer House Shoe Store," at street addresses 179 and 179-1/2 State Street, was styled as "The Most Magnificent Shoe Establishment in the West." His competitive instinct being indicated in the slogan, "We give West Side Price for Fine South Side Goods," Lapham also continued to maintain a Westside store at 320 West Madison. Similar advertisements appeared in two subsequent directories, the last one in the 1889-90 edition.

In August of 1889, a Detroit shoe manufacturer listed its retail outlets in the national weekly periodical, Shoe and Leather Reporter.

Chicago appeared first in the listing, with Lapham's Palmer House Shoe Store being the first store listed. That same year, Lapham was featured in another national periodical, The Boot and Shoe Recorder, published in Boston. Called one of the "leading shoe dealers in the United States," Lapham's photograph was included in the article, as well as a drawing of his home in Thomasville. No extant copy of this article has been found, but the sketch of Lapham was quoted in its entirety in The Thomasville Times [see the appendix of this report].¹⁷

In 1889, it was reported that Lapham had a penchant for not working more than two-thirds of the year,¹⁸ and this practice may have taken its toll on his business, as well as did the economic upheaval four years later. The "Panic" or Depression of 1893 was extremely severe, and it was considered by some to be "the worst financial calamity that ever befell the people." Approximately 15,000 bankruptcies were reported by the end of the year, while 600 banks failed and three-quarters of a billion dollars were lost nationally.¹⁹ The 1893 city directory²⁰ (which primarily summarized 1892) does not list Lapham's occupation, although he is shown as living in the Chicago suburb of Hyde Park, 85 47th Street.

A year later, the 1894 directory shows his occupation as "incubators," and in 1895, as "credits," which probably indicates a type of loan organization. This business was located at 227 Lake Street, the same address where his father continued to operate a "leather and findings" establishment.²¹ After 20 years as an adult and 20 years in business for himself, Lapham was back under the same roof with his father, yet being the first of the family to break out of the traditional mold of the leather industry or to apply the traditional family business to a modern enterprise.

Charles Lapham's business was listed in the city directories as "credits" for only 1895 and 1896, while the following year he was shown as "manager." Beginning in 1898, his occupation was listed as "real estate," a career which is indicated until 1906, the year he and his wife separated, whereupon his occupation ceased being listed.²² In 1914, Lapham was still in Chicago, living at 1526 East 53rd Street.²³

In late 1918, Lapham apparently journeyed to California with a nurse to assist him, probably continuing his search for better health.²⁴ While on the trip, he visited with his two younger sons, who were living in the Phoenix area.²⁵ After seven months in San Diego, only a few weeks before his 67th birthday, Charles Lapham died of a heart condition on July 2, 1919.²⁶ His body was cremated and the ashes were brought to Chicago, where they were buried at Mount Hope Cemetery beside his parents and brother. Chester, a salesman, had died in 1906 on a visit to Green Bay, Wisconsin, at the age of 49.²⁷ Joseph Lapham had died in 1896, having remained active in the leather industry until near the end of his long life. Charles' mother, until her death in 1915, continued to live at the Chicago Beach Hotel on the shores of Lake Michigan, where the clientele included professors, physicians, and military figures. Her grandson, son of Chester, Arthur Chase Lapham, lived with her for part of this time.²⁸ So, with Charles Lapham's burial in 1919, the members of the Lapham family -- the parents and their sons -- who had worked together through many decades, remained together in death. Charles' and Lydia's graves are not marked in the family plot.

Marriage and the Family

The career and personality of Charles W. Lapham is difficult to interpret, primarily due to the lack of any surviving personal records.



Emma Lapham and
son, Charles, Jr.
c. 1915



Emma Lapham and children, c. 1890

Covering some of his years in business are the R.G. Dun & Company business records, as abstracted above, but with the exception of these, there are no known letters, diaries, or business accounts.

On October 6, 1880, 28-year-old Charles Lapham married Emma Mary Conger, a 23-year-old resident of Collins Center in Erie County, New York, a town near Buffalo.²⁹ Following their marriage, the couple moved into the St. Caroline's Court Hotel, Chicago, where they resided until ca. 1886, after they had built their home in Thomasville. In 1887 and 1888, they lived in South Evanston, and in 1889, when Charles was operating his Palmer House Shoe Store, they lived in the Palmer House Hotel itself. The following year, their address was 5127 Hibbard Avenue, and from 1891-95, they lived at 85 47th Street in Hyde Park, a suburb of Chicago. Moving again, the couple set up housekeeping at 3652 Lake Avenue for 1896 and 1897, and then from 1898 until 1900, they lived at 4013 Ellis Avenue, indicated in the 1900 Census as rental property. In 1901, 3865 Lake Avenue became their home, and from 1902 through 1906, the year of their separation, they lived at 5534 Cornell Avenue. In 1914, Charles was reported as living at 1526 East 53rd Street.

This pattern of changing residences quite frequently seems to be consistent with Lapham's restlessness in other areas of his life, and it is probable that he never owned any of these properties. As late as 1900, he was still renting the house he and his family were occupying.³⁰

It is not known how Charles and Emma met, but since like Joseph Lapham, Charles' father, Emma's parents had migrated from Danby, Vermont, a community whose population in 1850 was 1,535,³¹ Charles probably met her while visiting the New York area. It is probable that he had relatives living there, or friends of his parents. The Congers were

Quakers, as were the Laphams and most of the other families in Collins, which started as a Quaker community.³² Although he was in business in Chicago continuously for two decades, his business dealings might very well have also brought him to Buffalo, near Collins, since he had his shoes manufactured in Rochester, just 75 miles northeast of Buffalo. Also, since Emma's father was a banker and Charles was a thriving young businessman, it is easy to speculate the interest a father of that era might have had in his daughter's marrying a man who could support her "in the manner to which she was accustomed."

Other possibilities exist, however, as to Charles' and Emma's meeting. Emma may have had friends or relatives in Chicago whom she visited and who were acquainted with Charles' family and may have introduced them. Her sister, Ella, attended school in nearby Buffalo, and Emma may have as well. Thus, she could have acquired friends who moved to Chicago, or she may have been introduced to Charles on a visit he made to Buffalo. Ella also loved to travel, and the two Conger sisters may very well have traveled to Chicago or to one of the many resorts that Charles visited and met him there.³³

Born December 3, 1857, Emma Conger was the younger of two daughters born to a wealthy banker, Anson Griffith Conger (1812-80), and his wife, Portia White Conger. Emma's father died February 12, 1880,³⁴ leaving his wife and daughters each one-third of his estate, one share amounting to \$120,000.³⁵ Marriage to Emma only a few months after the receiving of her inheritance was, therefore, not without its monetary rewards.³⁶ Emma's later activities as an independent businesswoman³⁷ and her sister's career as a bookkeeper³⁸ indicate a great deal of business acumen; obviously the Conger women could carry their own weight and add to their



Emma Lapham's mother, Mrs. Portia Conger, and sister, Ella Goodyear, at the latter's home in Buffalo, New York, c. 1904.



Emma Lapham on her Arizona ranch, c. 1910

husbands' business ventures. Emma's father had been active in civic affairs in the small community of Collins Center, as well as in Erie County,³⁹ having taught school and served as a town supervisor and a state representative. His career probably had also instilled in his daughters some interest in public affairs.

Ella was married in 1875 to Charles Waterhouse Goodyear, a lawyer who became quite prominent.⁴⁰ The Goodyears (Charles and his brother, Frank) were an amazingly active family, eventually touching on many aspects of the American experience. Charles Waterhouse was a close friend of Grover Cleveland, who was successively mayor of Buffalo, governor of New York, and President of the United States. Once complimented by Cleveland for being his only friend who did not ask for a favor or a job,⁴¹ Charles and his family were often entertained at the White House during the Cleveland administrations (1885-89 and 1893-97). On a visit to Thomasville in March of 1887, Charles was referred to as a former law partner of President Cleveland. He and Ella stayed at the Mitchell House Hotel during this visit, not at the Laphams' home, although the Laphams were in town.⁴²

The Goodyears were founders of Bogalusa, Louisiana, where their lumber mills were a major concern. They were and still are civic and cultural leaders in Buffalo and New York City. When a dormitory was dedicated in 1960 to Ella Conger Goodyear in Buffalo, mention was made that her highest social achievement was her reception for the king and queen of Belgium on their visit to the United States in 1918.⁴³

Besides their visits to Thomasville, Charles and Ella Goodyear also traveled to the Goodyear cottage on Jekyll Island, Georgia, which was built in 1902-03 by Charles' brother, Frank (1849-1907). Their lives,

and especially Ella's, were in marked contrast to that of her only sister, Emma Lapham. Whereas Ella led a life of refined living during her marriage, becoming a social and cultural leader and generating a family whose members continued in that tradition, Emma's life became one of intense struggle against many adverse circumstances, most of them not of her own creation.

In a span of 11 years, Emma Conger Lapham bore five children to her husband: Anson Joseph, born July 14, 1881,⁴⁴ named for his parents' fathers; Lydia Portia, born November 24, 1883,⁴⁵ named for her parents' mothers; Portia R., born December 16, 1886;⁴⁶ Charles W., Jr., born September 10, 1887, in Evanston, Illinois;⁴⁷ and Frank Conger, born October 25, 1891.⁴⁸ The elder daughter, Lydia Portia, known as "Dollie" or "Dolla," died at the Laphams' Thomasville home on Saturday, May 15, 1886,⁴⁹ following an illness of several weeks. Since her death coincided with the end of the season they normally spent there, her parents took her body back to the family cemetery at Collins Center, New York, for burial.

The family returned to Thomasville the following December, as was their usual custom,⁵⁰ but Emma, who surely would not have been traveling from Chicago had she expected the imminent birth of a child, gave birth probably prematurely to a daughter on December 16, only a few days after her arrival. This child, Portia R., was mentally retarded for her lifetime, presumably due to the conditions of her birth.⁵¹

Emma's travails continued, for in 1893, her husband was no longer in the boot and shoe business,⁵² and in the following year, they sold their winter residence in Thomasville.⁵³ The property there had always been in Emma's name, a legal maneuver done often as a precaution in the

case of possible bankruptcy or anticipation of an early death by the husband.⁵⁴ In Charles Lapham's life, both possibilities existed. Not only was he fearful of his health, but his activities in Thomasville, the only real evidence of his non-business interests, show him to be a visionary and "pleasure-seeker." Although during his first decade in the shoe business he had achieved good standing in the business community, at the end of the second decade, Charles changed occupations. At the age of 50, he went into real estate, an area far removed from the boot and shoe business in which he had achieved recognition as a businessman.

Following the death of her mother in 1905 and her inheritance from this estate, Emma and Charles Lapham signed a separation agreement in 1906. By this contract, they were legally separated, although not divorced. It would have been a severe step to have taken at any time during their lives, but for a couple well into middle age -- he was 54, while she was 49 -- with children aged 25, 20, 19, and 15, it was probably even more serious. Emma may have felt that it was the only way to extricate herself from the situation yet not incur the stigma then attached to outright divorce. By this document, Emma agreed to educate the children and to pay her husband \$35.00 a month for the rest of his life.⁵⁵

It was not long after this agreement that Emma and the two younger boys, Charles, Jr., and Frank, went to Arizona, then still a territory and later to be the 48th state in 1912. Arriving in what was still the virtual wilderness of the West by 1908,⁵⁶ a woman alone, Emma went into cattle-raising in the area around Phoenix and apparently became quite successful. But still tragedy stalked her. Not only did she have

her daughter Portia in a home in Ohio for the mentally ill, but her son Anson was also being treated for mental problems in Chicago.⁵⁷ In February of 1917, a kerosene lantern exploded at her ranch near Aguila, and she died of burns received in the fire.

Emma's obituary indicates that she and her sons had been entertaining guests, whom the boys had then taken to the train station, two miles away. Hearing an explosion, they turned around and saw the ranch house in flames. They rushed home, to find their mother outside the house on the ground, her body in flames. Since they lived in the country, it was several hours before the suffering Emma could be taken by train to Phoenix, where she died the next morning, February 8. Later, her body was taken to Buffalo and interred in the family plot at Collins Center, where a single monument marks her grave, as well as those of her parents.⁵⁸

When the estate of Emma Conger Lapham was probated, it was seen that the businesswoman who had forgone the society of Buffalo, Chicago, and Thomasville for the life of cattle and cowboys of the far West had her share of diamonds and dollars. A cattle rancher at the time of her death, she had a total estate worth approximately \$56,000, the cattle alone being worth \$27,000.⁵⁹ Her sons continued the cattle business, called The Lapham Company, for a number of years.

The children of Emma and Charles Lapham constitute the final chapter in the saga of this family, because there were no grandchildren. Anson, the eldest, died at the age of 77 in Los Angeles, having lived in Los Angeles County since about 1923. He had married for the first time only a month prior to his death.⁶⁰ Portia, who was in a home for the mentally retarded in Ohio at the time of her mother's death, eventually became the ward of her aunt, Ella Goodyear, and spent her remaining years

at Gowanda State [Mental] Hospital in New York. She died on July 4, 1965, at the age of 78.⁶¹ Frank Conger Lapham remained in Arizona and continued in the cattle business until a few years before his death in Wickenburg in 1959 at 67 years of age.⁶⁷ Charles Willard Lapham, Jr., had married Margaret Isabella O'Sullivan, a native of Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1918, and the couple lived on the cattle ranch near Phoenix for a few years before moving to Los Angeles, where Charles invested in rental property and Margaret worked in the county treasurer's office. Charles continued to handle his rentals and spent his leisure time on his "writings" until his death in 1971 at age 84.⁶³ His widow, residing in Los Angeles today, has been of great assistance to the author in compiling the history of the Lapham family, as she is the only person known who can recall having met Charles Lapham, Sr., and thus was able to direct the author to many sources of information.

Thomasville, Georgia, and the Laphams

Charles Lapham's career in Chicago as a rising young shoe dealer spanned two decades, yet today there is no known reminder of him in that city. On the other hand, his interest in and enthusiasm for his winter home are recalled in Thomasville, where his home stands today as a unique example of the ability of the men and women of the late Victorian period to express themselves through architecture.

According to Lapham's own statements, he first came to Thomasville around 1882 to regain his health. He had spent many seasons in the South (at undetermined locations) prior to this time, as early as 1872-73, when just after the Great Fire of Chicago he claimed to have been "given up to die" by the doctors. Whatever the reason, however, he was apparently "sold" on the region and eventually traveled to Thomasville

every winter season for well over a decade.⁶⁴

In 1884, Lapham and Ephraim Hackett of Milwaukee,⁶⁵ with whom Lapham seemed to have no other connection except being friends "for the season," purchased land on Dawson Street in Thomasville. Later that year, both built homes, which are still standing.⁶⁶ The Lapham property was actually in Emma's name, and Hackett's wife, Harriett Pilsbury Hackett, held title to their property. In 1885, Lapham advertised that he was in the market for buying more land, which indicates that he might have been planning to speculate and build other homes to sell.⁶⁷ This is an early example of his real estate interests, which became his profession a decade later. There are no further deed transactions to indicate that he proceeded with his plans, however, maybe finding prices too inflated for his purposes.

When the Laphams sold their residence in 1894, Charles was no longer in the shoe business. Whether or not the couple ever returned to Thomasville, or why they left, is not known. But surely his health could not have improved with age, and the great pleasure he received from residing in Thomasville must have been sorely missed when he was forced to spend winters in Chicago, unless he had found another resort area with even greater effect on his constitution than Thomasville.

C.W. Lapham and Religion

Charles Lapham was descended from Quakers (members of the Society of Friends) on both sides of his family.⁶⁸ His wife's ancestry was from the same area, and some of Emma's ancestors were Quakers, as well,⁶⁹ although her sister, Ella Goodyear, was early a Methodist and became a Presbyterian when she married. Much later, Ella became a Christian



C.W. Lapham, c. 1919

Scientist and attributed that faith to her victory over cancer in 1905, after which she survived for 35 years.⁷⁰

One of the three known photographs of Lapham is that taken by S.W. Fallis Studio of Chicago, probably around 1918, which shows Lapham as an older man (he would have been 66 that year), along with nine other figures or pictures superimposed around him. These are identified on the back as:

- [numbers on the original, starting at left, bottom]
1. Emma [his wife, died 1917]
 2. Lapham John 'Great Uncle'
 3. Lord Willowby English Great Spirit/sacrificed much for religion
 4. Control of Band. Cap. Herbert Warberton/Revolutionary War
 5. Luecretia [sic] Mott [a Quaker who died in 1880]
 6. Greek Ancient - 200 year back Fire Greek/treats and cures by Fire
 7. Mother's fathers oldest sisters 2 mo. daughter of (Mary)
 8. [lower right] Chester Lapham '1 yr.' old brother
 9. [opposite the above, the writing is extremely faint]⁷¹

Family tradition attributes this photograph to a fortune-teller.⁷² This type of photography is known as "spirit photography" and was used by mediums of the time. It was perhaps done during a photographic seance. The person consulting the medium brought in the photographs to be used, generally being those of deceased persons who were of particular importance to him or her. Therefore, this composite photograph should offer some insight into the personality of Charles Lapham.⁷³

This picture, with the great emphasis among the identified persons with religion, and the Goodyear family tradition that Lapham was a minister,⁷⁴ indicate a good possibility that Charles Lapham was known for having strong, even eccentric, religious beliefs. The Chicago Quaker records have yielded no record of his membership in that religious body in that city, however.⁷⁵

FOOTNOTES

Chapter 1Charles W. Lapham, Sr.: Builder and Owner, 1884-1894

- ¹ The Daily [Thomasville] Times-Enterprise, August 8, 1889, p. 1, c. 2, article entitled, "Advertising Thomasville;" and death certificate of Charles W. Lapham [Sr.], No. 968-249, State of California, filed July 7, 1919, informant was not a relative.
- ² The History and Map of Danby, Vermont (1869), p. 184.
- ³ Survey of Chicago, Ill., City Directories by the author, and letter of November 5, 1976, from the Chicago Historical Society, including an abstract of the Charles W. Lapham citations [see appendix].
- ⁴ Telephone interview with Mrs. C.W. Lapham, Jr., of Los Angeles, Calif., on October 6, 1976, by the author.
- ⁵ Death certificate of Joseph B. Lapham, No. 11596, State of Illinois, filed August 6, 1896; Laphams in America, p. 109; The History and Map of Danby, Vermont, p. 186; death certificate of Charles W. Lapham [Sr.]; and Mount Hope Cemetery office records, Blue Island, Chicago, Ill.
- ⁶ Dates of her life from Mount Hope Cemetery office records, Blue Island, Chicago, Ill. She has no tombstone.
- ⁷ The History and Map of Danby, Vermont, pp. 184-86.
- ⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹ Death certificate of Joseph B. Lapham gives the length of time that he had been in the state of Illinois as 26 years. The informant was his physician. Lapham had suffered a paralytic stroke six months prior to his death.
- ¹⁰ R.G. Dun & Company, Credit Ledgers, Vol. 40, p. 252; entry for C.W. Lapham indicates his father was worth \$15,000 to \$25,000 in 1873.
- ¹¹ Chicago City Directory, 1871; entries in alphabetical order.
- ¹² Classified Business Directory and Guide Book of the City of Chicago ... April, 1879, p. 64.
- ¹³ R.G. Dun & Company, Credit Ledgers.
- ¹⁴ The Daily [Thomasville] Times-Enterprise, August 8, 1889, p. 1, c. 2, "Advertising Thomasville;" Thomasville (Among the Pines), 1891, pp.

- 20-21. This letter from Charles W. Lapham to the editor of the newspaper had originally appeared on p. 1 of The Thomasville Times, August 4, 1888.
- 15 Comparison of Chicago City Directory for years 1871 through 1880, listings for C.W. and J.B. Lapham.
 - 16 Chicago City Directory, 1873.
 - 17 The major source for this credit-business history of Lapham is the R.G. Dun & Company Credit Ledgers, Illinois, Vol. 40, from the Dun and Bradstreet Collection, Baker Library, Harvard University, starting at p. 252 (1873-77); then (on another page) for 1877-80 ; (another page) for an account on Chester E. Lapham; C.W. Lapham, 1880-82; and one final portion (no page) for 1883-84. Also used for cross-reference and advertisements would be the Chicago City Directory for years 1874, 1878-79 and 1885. The Lakeside Annual Business Directory of the City of Chicago 1880, p. 1274; Reversed Directory of the Elite of Chicago for 1882-83 (copyright copy received February 26, 1883, at the Library of Congress) and for 1883-84 (January 20, 1884); and the revised but similar publication, The Elite Directory and Club List of Chicago for 1884-85 (December 10, 1884), 1887-88 (January 24, 1888), 1888-89 (March 21, 1889), 1889-90 (January 2, 1890); no advertisements for Lapham were found in the volumes published in this series for 1886-87, 1890-91, 1892, or 1895. Shoe and Leather Reporter, Vol. 48, No. 6, August 8, 1889, p. 312. Chicago Business Directory, 1890, p. 360. And The Daily [Thomasville] Times-Enterprise, Vol. I, No. 74, August 8, 1889, p. 1, c. 2, "Advertising Thomasville," concerning the article in the Boot and Shoe Recorder. A search for the back issues of the Boot and Shoe Recorder failed to locate any for 1889. None were found in the Library of Congress or the New York Public Library, whose collection begins in 1890, and neither were any found in other locations.
 - 18 The Daily [Thomasville] Times-Enterprise, August 8, 1889, p. 1, c. 2, "Advertising Thomasville."
 - 19 Geoffrey H. Moore, Statistical Indicators of Cyclical Revivals and Recessions (1950), p. 55; Table Eleven indicates that there were definable financial crises from July of 1890 through May of 1891, and January of 1893 through June of 1894; Table Ten, p. 46, indicates there was a business peak in January of 1893, and that by the summer it had contracted. Also: W.S. Morgan, "The Panic of 1893, Tom Watson's Magazine, Vol. I, No. 3, May, 1905, pp. 347-48.
 - 20 Chicago City Directory, 1893.
 - 21 Ibid., 1895.
 - 22 Ibid., 1900. "Rented" was the column checked in the 1900 Census for the Laphams in Cook County, Illinois. Living with the Laphams other than their four children were Cyrus Libby, 52, a shoe salesman; Clara B. Keaser, 30, white servant; and Camie [?] Wallace, 28, a white servant.

- 23 Chicago City Directory, 1914.
- 24 Death certificate of Charles W. Lapham cites the length of residence in San Diego as well as "in the state" as being seven months. The informant was E.C. Bang [?]; also, telephone interview with Mrs. C.W. Lapham, Jr., May 20, 1976, by the author.
- 25 Telephone interview with Mrs. Charles W. Lapham, Jr., May 20, 1976, by the author, indicated that after she married in 1918, she met her father-in-law, who visited them in Los Angeles and played "Home, Sweet Home" on the piano.
- 26 Death certificate of Charles W. Lapham [Sr.], No. 968-249, State of California.
- 27 Mount Hope Cemetery office records, Blue Island, Chicago, Ill., indicate the interment there of his ashes on July 26, and that the family lot only contains four graves; death certificate of Chester E. Lapham, State of Wisconsin, filed October 31, 1906 [no number attached].
- 28 The Chicago Blue Book (1900), pp. 336-37; Chicago City Directory 1900 and 1901.
- 29 Family records of Ella Conger Goodyear, as published in Goodyear Family History, III, 1976, by George F. Goodyear, p. 35. New York did not require marriages to be part of the court records at this time, so it is not known where they were married.
- 30 Chicago City Directory for the years indicated [see appendix].
- 31 Goodyear Family History, III, p. 29; The History and Map of Danby, Vermont, pp. 184-86.
- 32 Letter of December 8, 1976, from George F. Goodyear of Buffalo, New York, to the author; located in the files of the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.
- 33 Goodyear Family History, III, p. 42.
- 34 Ibid., pp. 29-30; obituary of Anson G. Conger from the Buffalo Daily Courier, February 14, 1880, p. 2, c. 7.
- 35 Goodyear Family History, III, p. 42.
- 36 R.G. Dun & Company, Credit Ledgers for June 23, 1881, indicate she had assets worth \$60,000-\$75,000.
- 37 Her estate records indicate she ran The Lapham Company, a cattle ranch in Arizona, for approximately nine years and was successful at this. She had two of her sons assisting her.
- 38 Goodyear Family History, III, p. 42.

- 39 Obituary of Anson G. Conger; Goodyear Family History, III, pp. 29-30; Buffalo City Directory, 1878, pp. 41-42, 698.
- 40 Goodyear Family History, III, pp. 41-44.
- 41 Cleveland to Goodyear, August 6, 1885, Allan Nevins (ed.), Letters of Grover Cleveland, 1850-1908, pp. 70-71.
- 42 Goodyear Family History, III, p. 43: The Thomasville Times, March 19, 1887, p. 3, c. 5.
- 43 Goodyear Family History, III, p. 44. A summary of her life was read at the dedication of the dormitory in 1960, and her picture was hung there.
- 44 Death certificate of Anson J. Lapham, No. 58-070986, State of California.
- 45 Tombstone of Lydia P. Lapham, Collins Center Cemetery, Collins Center, Erie County, N.Y.
- 46 Death certificate of Portia R. Lapham, No. 051211, State of New York.
- 47 Death certificate of Charles W. Lapham [Jr.], State File No. 71-143054, State of California, and [delayed] birth certificate from his widow.
- 48 Death certificate of Frank C. Lapham, State File No. 7768, State of Arizona.
- 49 The Thomasville Times, May 22, 1886, p. 3, c. 4, "Fell Asleep." Nick-name learned from interview with Margaret Lapham of Los Angeles.
- 50 Ibid., December 11, 1886, p. 3, c. 6.
- 51 At her mother's death in 1917, she was in an institution in Ohio and was later moved to one in New York, where she died.
- 52 Chicago City Directory, 1893.
- 53 Thomas County, Ga., Superior Court, Deed Book CC, pp. 590-91 (sale).
- 54 Ibid., Deed Book T, p. 460, shows purchase of the property.
- 55 Estate File No. 2514, Estate of Emma M. Lapham, Maricopa County, Ariz.; original loose papers now on file in Records Management Center, Department of Administration, State of Arizona.
- 56 Death certificate of Emma Conger Lapham, State Index No. 662, Maricopa County, State of Arizona (her name is given as Anna M. Lapham). To the question, "Length of Residence ... in Arizona," the informant, her son Charles, said "9 yrs. [or 7]." Also: Maricopa County, Ariz., Deed Book 70, p. 575, deed dated October 26, 1908; at this point, Emma was a resident of that county. Deed recorded November 12, 1908.

- 57 The estate payments of Emma Lapham [see Footnote 55] cites payments for psychological clinic and sanity hearings for him 1917 and that his share of his mother's estate was placed in trust by her will; he was 35 years old at this time.
- 58 Obituary of Emma Conger Lapham; The [Phoenix] Arizona Republican, Friday, February 9, 1917, p. 10, c. 5, "Death Follows When Oil Lamp Blows to Bits." Personal inspection of the Collins Center Cemetery and tombstone by George F. Goodyear of Buffalo, N.Y., summer of 1976 [see his letter of August 9, 1976].
- 59 Inventory of the estate of Emma Conger Lapham in her estate records [see Footnote 55].
- 60 Goodyear Family History, III, p. 35.
- 61 Ibid. Her death certificate indicates she had been at the hospital since 1944, had never worked, had [unclear], and suffered from schizophrenia [see Footnote 46].
- 62 Obituary of Frank C. Lapham, The [Phoenix] Arizona Republic, October 3, 1959, p. 44.
- 63 Death certificate of Charles W. Lapham [Jr.], State File No. 71-143054, State of California; telephone interview with Mrs. C.W. Lapham, Jr., July 20, 1977, by the author.
- 64 The Daily [Thomasville] Times-Enterprise, August 8, 1889; Thomasville (Among the Pines), 1891, pp. 20-21, on the booklet [originally published in 1888].
- 65 Thomas County, Ga., Superior Court, Deed Book T; and The Thomasville Times, April 5, 1884, p. 3, c. 4.
- 66 The homes are shown on the bird's-eye-view map published May of 1885, just a year after purchase of the property [The Thomasville Times, May 9, 1885, p. 3, c. 3], and are obviously the same ones there today.
- 67 The Thomasville Times, May 30, 1885, p. 3, c. 3, and p. 2, c. 2 (advertisement).
- 68 The History and Map of Danby, Vermont, pp. 184-86.
- 69 Ibid. Letter from George F. Goodyear of Buffalo, N.Y., December 8, 1976, to the author; located in the Historic Preservation Section files, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.
- 70 Goodyear Family History, III, p. 43.
- 71 The original picture is owned by Mrs. Charles W. Lapham, Jr., of Los Angeles, Calif.

- ⁷² Telephone interview with Mrs. C.W. Lapham, Jr., of Los Angeles, October of 1976, by the author.
- ⁷³ Telephone interview with Dr. Michael Lesy, visiting professor of Photography at Emory University, Atlanta, winter of 1977, by the author.
- ⁷⁴ Goodyear Family History, III, p. 35.
- ⁷⁵ Letter of May 12, 1977, from Sabron R. Newton, librarian, 57th Street Meeting, Chicago; and letter of May 26, 1977, from Margaret B. Dupree, clerk, Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends General Conference, Downer's Grove, Ill.

Chapter 2

C.W. LAPHAM AND HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Opera House

One of C.W. Lapham's main interests in his winter home was the pursuit of culture. As evidenced by his interests in the town's building a permanent opera house, as well as the creation of a "pleasure park," Lapham sought to raise the level of culture in Thomasville, as he saw it.

In early 1886, Thomasville residents were at the mercy of itinerant opera companies, such as the Bijou Opera Company, which had just played in town on Saturday, January 23, for a one-night performance. Opera-goers were subjected to hearing whichever opera the troupe decided to do that evening for a single performance. The newspaper had reported a week earlier the operas which had a possibility of being performed that evening:¹ Mascot (or La Mascotte, by Edmond Audran), The Mikado (by Gilbert and Sullivan), The Chimes of Normandy (by Robert Planquette), H.M.S. Pinafore (by Gilbert and Sullivan), or Girofle Girofla (by Alexander C. LeCocq). All of these are considered "light" or comic opera and definitely not the highest form of material for opera enthusiasts.² As it turned out, the company played La Mascotte.³

In Chicago, William Emmett had recently built an opera house which was familiar to Lapham. In Emmett's letter to the editor of The Thomasville Times on February 2, he proposed to Mayor Hopkins that the town build an opera house, which he (Emmett) would manage on the following conditions: that it cost no less than \$10,000, excluding the cost of the land it was built on, and that he would come and lease the same for

an annual rental of \$1,000, offering to make the first payment in advance. Emmett listed his permanent residence as New Orleans.⁴

Lapham, writing only a few days later, on February 6, indicated that he had spent the past 15 winters in the South and felt that Thomasville had many more advantages than the other resorts he had visited. Although he recognized, he said, that the city was a "great health resort" already, he felt that the town's residents should aim "higher" and place the town on a level with the large cities. Lapham was extremely excited over the prospect of Emmett, whose work was well known in Chicago and New Orleans, building an opera house in Thomasville.⁵

The newspaper's editorial favored the opera house, saying that it was hoped the citizens and businessmen would work together to obtain this. The newspaper's editorialist saw the usefulness of the opera house not only for the performance of opera, but also for other civic events and meetings, since the city hall was currently being used in that capacity.⁶

In May of 1886, there was a proposal by the firm of Fearn and Thompson to convert the skating rink into an opera house, to be ready by December.⁷ By that time, when The Mikado played in Thomasville, it was again at the city hall.⁸ In March of 1888, town residents finally decided on the issue, and J.W. Gunn, an Atlanta architect, drew up the plans for the new opera house. It was to be under the management of James W. Reid, who by then was also involved in the development of Pleasure Park.⁹

The Thomasville Opera House had its grand opening on Monday night, November 12, 1888, at 8:30, when the play, Jim the Penman, was presented.¹⁰ The building had cost \$15,000 and included private boxes, a

gallery for blacks, and other features. It was located on South Broad Street next to a livery stable.

The fruition of three years' work on the part of Lapham and others in Thomasville, this opera house was destroyed by fire in 1899, just 11 years later. It was replaced later by another structure.¹¹ [See the appendices for reprints of the letters and editorials mentioned in this section.]

Pleasure Park

By 1887, when C.W. Lapham began his campaign for Pleasure Park, Thomasville already had the famous "Yankee Paradise" or, as it was more tactfully called in deference to the Northern visitors, "Paradise Park." This park, originally adjacent to the Piney Woods Hotel, still exists in Thomasville, bounded by Broad, Hansell, Metcalf and Dawson streets.

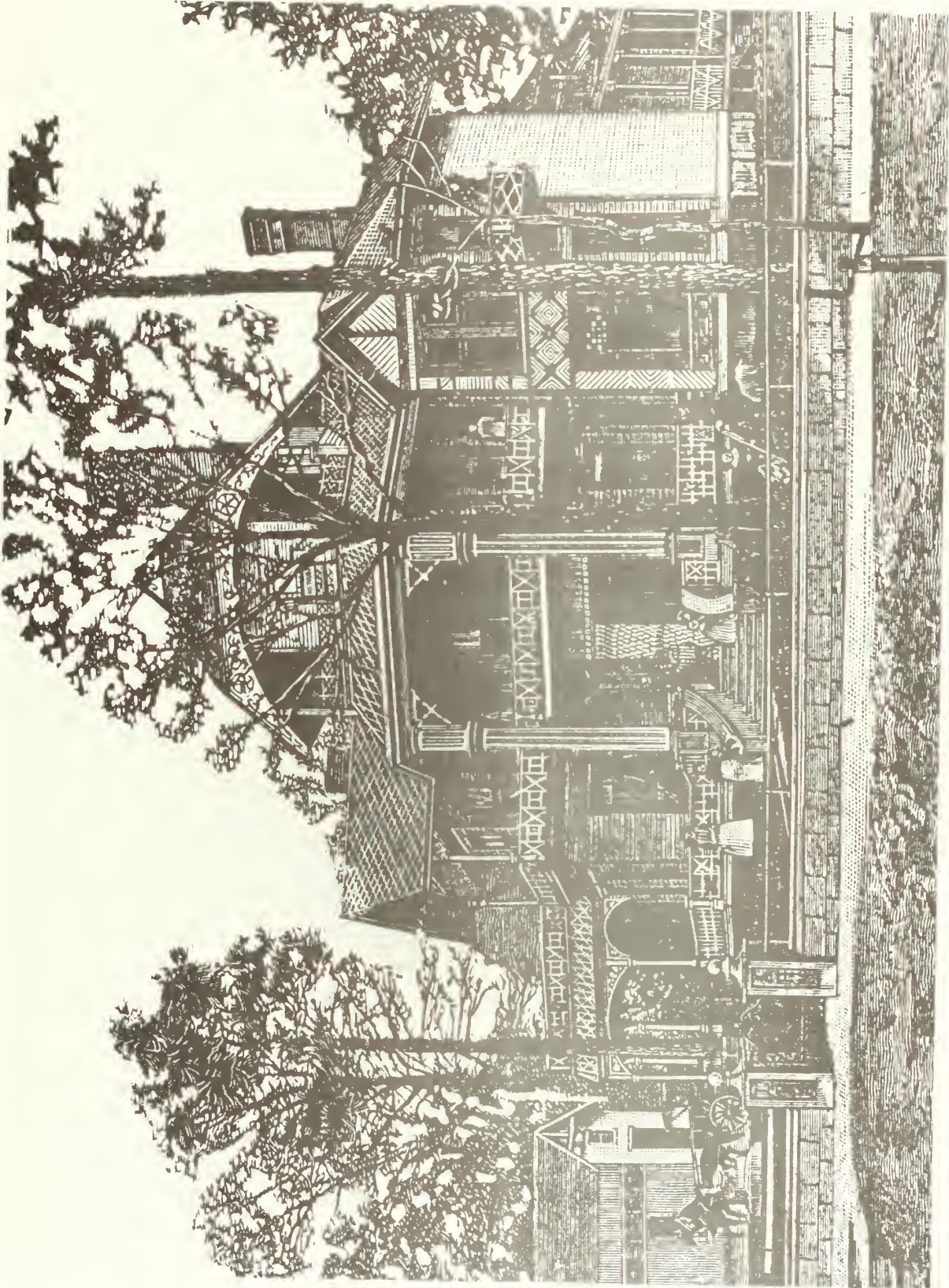
One might wonder why Thomasville needed another park with this large expanse of open space near the center of town, and the answer lies in Lapham's concept of how Pleasure Park would differ from the existing park. His vision for the new park was for an area that was slightly removed from the city, where people could ride during their leisure hours and observe animals going about unhindered. An enclosure was to encircle the park in order to keep these animals from straying and thus preserve the artificial "natural" environment. As his ideas, elaborated in this chapter, show, Lapham's park differed from the "public park" within the city limits by being more for rest and contemplation rather than for a quick stroll or a Fourth of July celebration, which often was the case in Paradise Park.

It is also probable that Lapham and the company which was formed to

organize Pleasure Park were motivated by the fact that Paradise Park was not publicly owned in 1887-88, and thus was subject at any time, at the whims of its owners, to being transformed into a housing development or the site of another hotel. It was not until 1889 that a public bond issue brought Paradise Park into public ownership, where it remains today. It is interesting to note that the original "public" park (Paradise Park) was actually privately owned until 1889, and it was only after the proposed "public" park (Pleasure Park) became a reality as a privately-owned park that the privately-owned "public" park (Paradise Park) did indeed become publically owned.¹²

Lapham first brought his idea to public attention in an article signed only as "Progress," which appeared February 19, 1887, in The Thomasville Times.¹³ [When this article was reprinted the following year, an accompanying article identified the author.] Lapham saw Thomasville as both a health and pleasure resort, and he stated that he believed that the town was well-equipped for the former function, but in order to fulfill both functions, amusement was a necessary quality. He cited the advantages Thomasville already possessed as a pleasure resort: "Delightful drives through the pines; first-class hotels; fine liveries; also good sport for the gentlemen who enjoy hunting."

For Thomasville to "yet occupy the most prominent place in the south as a health and pleasure resort," however, Lapham suggested advertising and adding more to the "wants in the line of pleasure." He thought it would be easy to make the city "conspicuously attractive," and thus he suggested a "pleasure park" of 50 to 100 acres, a mile or so from the city, a rectangle parallel to the main road and extending inland approximately a quarter mile.¹⁴ His park would have a high picket-and-wire fence, with the tops "fixed" in order to enclose rabbits,



The Lapham-Patterson House. This illustration first appeared in The Thomasville Times on August 4, 1888, with a letter from C.W. Lapham. It was later used in Thomasville (Among the Pines), published in 1891.

raccoons, squirrels, and other small animals. The fence would also enclose a herd of deer, Cashmere goats, and other desirable animals "to run at large in a park of this kind." Lapham, the visionary and pleasure-seeker, went on to include a fish pond, swan, wild geese, and ducks. Surrounding the main rectangular enclosure, he further envisioned 50 to 75 lots, where various breeds of turkey and chicken (specifying Leghorns, Polands, and Cochins) would be kept. In other lots would be species of cattle, such as Jerseys and Holsteins, as well as Shetland ponies.

Lapham proposed a park drive just inside the park fence, where one could view "the stock and different curiosities," and within the park would be a park house with a ladies' parlor and a gentlemen's sitting room [in today's terminology, restrooms]. Included would also be a lunchroom, where he envisioned people being served lunch and a glass of milk or lemonade, and where serving could be extended to the dinner hour.

The grounds of the park would include hammocks, swings, and seats, as well as "open tents" for, as he put it, "those who wished to enjoy the charming climate." Finally, Lapham included his own special interest, an aviary, which would adjoin the park house.

Lapham felt that all of this would help visitors pass the day actively or leisurely, rather than in brooding over their illnesses. He envisioned park wagons to take people to and from town on a regular basis. He felt this "stocked park" would be a "novelty" and would attract many visitors to Thomasville, and for invalids, he said, it would relieve the "monotony" of their lives, and their letters praising the park would bring in more visitors to the town.¹⁵

Lapham's idea lay before the town's residents for a year before it

came up for formal discussion and implementation. On Tuesday, April 3, 1888, Mayor H.W. Hopkins held a meeting of the "best citizens" at his office, where he began by reading Lapham's article of the year before. After this reading, Lapham spoke briefly, saying that the project would cost about \$10,000, and that by charging a small admission, it could be self-supporting and could be developed further each year. Following this, J. Wyman Jones of Englewood, New Jersey, addressed the committee concerning the need for parks, as evidenced by his experiences "up east." He favored the idea as a "grand step in the right direction."

Local residents also responded favorably. Colonel A.P. Wright, a former mayor and a citizen who was involved in local endeavors, said it was a "very practical and essential" project. Samuel L. Hayes said he could recall nothing "that would be of more importance" to the city's growth, and James Reid, a local druggist and book-seller, suggested that a stock company be formed at once to begin the project.

Two committees were formed at this initial meeting: one to select the location, whose members were Mayor Hopkins, S.L. Hayes, and C.W. Lapham; and the other for subscriptions or fund-raising purposes, whose members included James Reid, W.H. Mitchell, and Lapham. The newspaper prefaced the report of the entire discussion of the meeting with an editorial supporting the park, saying that the endeavor would be "worth-[while] as an advertising medium alone."¹⁶

The following week, on April 13, officers of the Pleasure Park Association were elected: J. Wyman Jones, president; S.L. Hayes, vice-president; T.C. Mitchell (owner of the Mitchell House Hotel), treasurer; and J.F. Evans, secretary. Lapham was chosen chairman of the General Managing Committee, which included Reid, Wright, Mitchell, and Colonel A.T. MacIntyre, as well as Mayor Hopkins. The committee for selecting a

location was headed by banker S.L. Hayes.¹⁷

The Thomasville Times summed up the situation:

Mr. C.W. Lapham was the happiest man in town yesterday afternoon -- the Pleasure Park was a success. Mr. Lapham, by his writings, and constant advocacy of the measure, has contributed, very largely, indeed, to its success.¹⁸

Not everyone, however, was in full agreement with Lapham's elaborate plans, and at least one person, a successful businessman, was bold enough to write a dissenting letter to the editor. C.H. Macy, a winter resident from New York City and owner of several large grocery stores,¹⁹ wrote his first letter to the Southern Enterprise [copies of which no longer exist]. Lapham replied to the letter, but in Macy's rebuttal to this in The Thomasville Times, he clarified his point: He was concerned about the cost of the park. He said he had given the entire proposal careful consideration in the year since Lapham first mentioned it, but he felt his experiences in life indicated that the maintenance of the items that Lapham had proposed -- a fence, a park house, the grounds, the animals -- would cost a great deal. Macy, who ridiculed the idea of free boat rides as well, said he had called Thomasville the "Newport of the South," and said that Newport did not need a park to become prosperous because a park would not bring in that much revenue. He suggested that the way Newport brought in money from the vast number of wealthy persons it attracted was through a casino, which apparently was his counter proposal. Macy felt that people would not spend a great deal of money at the park, in comparison to the money they could afford to spend on amusements, and, furthermore, that the park would not attract new visitors, but would primarily be used by those already residing in

Thomasville.²⁰

Lapham countered Macy's questions with another long letter to the editor which was published side by side with Macy's letter. Lapham criticized the anonymity of the writer [Macy had at least added his initials to the second article; Lapham was forgetting his own pseudonym of "Progress" the year before] -- as if he did not know who his critic was. Lapham stressed that he had spent his past three annual visits to Thomasville thinking over the situation and trying to locate the weak points of the proposal, claiming he had "no selfish interests in view," and that he had acted as "one of Thomasville's humble servants for her best welfare." He stated that his experience in living in large cities and traveling to resorts for 20 years in hopes of improving his health and in search of pleasure qualified him to address the subject of a park. He then indicated his surprise at Thomasville's proposal being compared to New York and Chicago and the "artificial" parks in these cities. He claimed Pleasure Park would be less costly, because a portion of the forest would just be enclosed, with no artificial creativity going on. Terming all the proposed attractions "inexpensive," he did discuss the season ticket fee, however, saying he felt that five cents per visit would be adequate and not an insult to the Northerners. Lapham concluded by requesting other critics to get their facts first before publicly criticizing the project.²¹

It appears from the comparison of these two varying views in support of a park that both men wanted the endeavor, but that Macy had, by far, a more practical view of the outcome, perhaps having worked before with local groups who would support a novel idea until the newness wore

off. In the long run, Macy was proved right.

In the same edition of the newspaper in which the two letters were published, the purchase of the Seward Tract by J. Wyman Jones was announced -- land which eventually was turned into Pleasure Park (now Glen Arven). At this time, however, it was reported as an unrelated news item.²²

Originally, T.C. Mitchell had offered some property to be used for the park, and at the next meeting, on April 20, this site was accepted by those persons representing 42-1/2 shares. This Mitchell tract was two miles from town on the Irwinville Road, between the Irwinville and Coffee roads.²³

On the same page in the newspaper, Lapham announced that he had been suddenly forced to return home to Chicago about a month earlier than his normal departure time, due to his poor health. He cited that the park would supply for Thomasville the "most essential necessary means of diversion and recreation," and he indicated his willingness to withdraw his support for the park and support any other project considered "more feasible" to advertise and benefit Thomasville because he did not think Thomasville could "afford to carry to a successful completion more than one such essential project at a time." He indicated also his willingness to donate, not loan, to the park, once it was finished, his "pet deer, wild goose, and collection of birds as a beginner or starter on the advertising Gardens and Park."²⁴ But, with all these visions and plans, what actually happened was somewhat different.

On April 6, 1889, the newspaper announced the park as a "revelation" that consisted of 240 acres:

Miles and miles of beautifully graded drives have been laid out and finished in the most artistic manner. These pass through and skirt some of the finest natural scenery in the entire section. There is a richness and a variety of natural growth that challenges the admiration at every turn. The lands are gently undulating and are interspersed with natural groves in every direction.

By this time, a lodge had even been built.²⁵

This actual park had changed somewhat from the public proposal of the year before, which had been supported in a series of town meetings. Now, no mention was made of those efforts, just the fact that the wealthy Northerner, J. Wyman Jones, who had also purchased and refurbished Elsona Plantation, was "improving the property for his own amusement, but wants the citizens of the place to enjoy it with him."²⁶ Therefore, the newspaper reported, it would be open to the public on certain days of the week -- a far cry from the public park for amusements proposed earlier, but perhaps a more self-supporting venture now.

By 1890, Jones was having rare Whiteldeer and pheasant shipped from Europe to be used in the Pleasure Park and zoological garden, which Lap- ham graciously allowed a temporary home in his "enclosure," presumably in his backyard.²⁷

In the summer of that year, the park began opening for weekend visitation, primarily for Sunday-afternoon drives, and by 1892, it was often the place for daily carriage rides, music in the pavilion, and viewing from the observation tower. The whole concept of a public park changed, however, after local citizens transformed their local gun club into the Glen Arven Country Club and leased Jones' park. Although other local citizens, as well as Northern visitors, offered alternative tracts

for the club, including John W. Masury's offer of the land across the road from his Cleveland Park estate, the club stockholders accepted the offer of Jones to lease the Glen Arven park.²⁸

So, in a matter of only a few years, C.W. Lapham's vision of a "pleasure park" for both the invalid seeking recuperation and the visitor seeking amusement had been transformed first from a public endeavor to a private one; from a wide-ranging, multi-faceted dream to a more reasonable operation; and then from a park open to the public, even if only on certain days, to a private country club, as it remains today. Although the results of his efforts did produce a beautiful setting for the Glen Arven Country Club, as beautiful today as it was in 1895, Lapham would hardly have approved the transformation of his ideas. This change of focus may well have been a contributing factor in his selling his home in Thomasville and departing from the area he had enjoyed for over a decade as his winter home.

Lapham's Interest in Fauna

C.W. Lapham greatly loved both birds and other animals, as evidenced by the enclosure for birds he built at his home and the advertising he did concerning them. During at least two seasons at Thomasville, he advertised in the local newspaper for birds to fill the enclosure. This building was still in existence in 1890 after Pleasure Park (Glen Arven) became a reality, for he allowed it to be used for the animals sent from Europe for the park.

Lapham's first full season in his winter home began by the loss of his Irish setter, for which he advertised:

Lost!

A Red Irish Setter Dog
Please Return to C.W. Lapham

The dog, which may have been a Christmas gift, was advertised as lost on December 26, 1885,²⁹ and in the same advertisement, Lapham began the search for birds for his enclosure:

Also will pay cash for trapped birds, Jorees, Red Birds, Doves, Quails, Mocking and Various varieties, which you can find out by calling me, corner Dawson and Webster Sts.

Lapham specified that this advertisement was to appear until further notice; then on January 23 he changed it to read:³⁰

Wanted for Cash

All fine plumage birds, sound and wings not clipped, such as Mocking and Red birds, Blue and Blue Jays, Jorees, Thrushes, Robins, Doves, Quails, No Sparrows. Also fine squirrels.

Again, on February 13, he changed his advertisement:³¹

Cash paid for trapped (male) Mocking, Blue, Jorees and Red Birds. Also male and female doves, Quails, Robins.

A week later, he add: "And baby alligators."³²

This advertisement, with its various additions and changes, was running in the newspaper as late as March 13, 1886.³³

When Lapham returned for the winter season of 1886-1887, presumably having left his enclosure of animals in charge of some local person, he again advertised, appealing apparently to young boys who could make money by locating birds for him:³⁴

Wanted

Squirrels, partridges and doves.
 Also 4000 live male jories and red
 birds. Only a small price allowed
 where any of the feathers are gone
 or for other kinds of birds.

C.W. Lapham
 Cor. Dawson St. and Webster Av.
 dec 18-tf

This advertisement, begun on December 18, 1886, was to run until further notice. It is not known if he advertised during other years, but perhaps these first two winter seasons, with the reproduction of the animals already enclosed, would have kept him well-stocked for years to come.

The enclosure was still in use in 1890 when J. Wyman Jones sent animals back from Europe for Glen Arven, and they were temporarily housed in the Lapham enclosure.³⁵

It is not known who took care of the menagerie during Lapham's ownership, or what he did with them when he left, but one would doubt that he had room in Chicago to house such a collection, and he certainly would not have transported them back and forth for his visits.

In 1895, after the house had been sold to James Larmon, Mrs. Larmon attempted to sell the place. She described it as including a stables, greenhouse, storerooms, and coach house, but no "enclosure" or aviary.³⁶ An aviary was still in existence in 1905 when the Pattersons purchased the house, but eventually it fell into ruin and was demolished.

FOOTNOTES

Chapter 2C.W. Lapham, Sr., and His Involvement with the Community

- ¹ The Thomasville Times, January 16, 1886, p. 3, c. 3, announced the opera company was coming; and on January 23, 1886, p. 3, c. 2, it was reported what would be playing that Saturday night.
- ² Discussion with Librarian at the Public Library Service, Georgia Department of Education, who researched authors, as well as types of operas.
- ³ The Thomasville Times, January 23, 1886, p. 3, c. 2.
- ⁴ Ibid., February 6, 1886, p. 3, c. 3, "Will Thomasville Build an Opera House?" is the editorial, followed by Emmett's letter to Mayor Hopkins of February 2, 1886.
- ⁵ Ibid., February 13, 1886, p. 3, c. 5, "That Opera House" was the editorial and at p. 3, c. 6, C.W. Lapham's letter to the editor of February 6, 1886, appeared.
- ⁶ Ibid., p. 3, c. 6, Lapham's letter to the editor of February 6, 1886.
- ⁷ Ibid., May 29, 1886, p. 3, c. 3, "An Opera House."
- ⁸ Ibid., December 3, 1887, p. 3, c. 5.
- ⁹ Ibid., March 17, 1888, p. 3, c. 1, and p. 3, c. 2.
- ¹⁰ Ibid., November 17, 1888, p. 1, c. 5.
- ¹¹ Rogers, Thomas County 1865-1900, pp. 309-10.
- ¹² See footnote 2; Daily Times-Enterprise, May 23, 1889, p. 1, c. 3; May 30, 1889, p. 1, c. 3; Rogers, Thomas County 1865-1900, pp. 152-53. Acts ... State of Georgia 1886-7, II, pp. 521-23, Act of September 21, 1887.
- ¹³ The Thomasville Times, February 19, 1887, p. 3, c. 5, signed by "Progress;" republished April 7, 1888, p. 3, c. 4, 5, "Thomasville as a Resort."
- ¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵ Ibid., April 7, 1888, p. 3, c. 3, "Thomasville's Grand Enterprise!"
- ¹⁶ Ibid.

- 17 Ibid., April 14, 1888, p. 1, c. 3, "The Park Assured."
- 18 Ibid., p. 1, c. 2.
- 19 Ibid., March 12, 1887, p. 3, c. 2, "Letter from Thomasville."
- 20 Ibid., April 14, 1888, p. 2, c. 5.
- 21 Ibid., p. 2, c. 4, "Will the Pleasure Park be Self-Supporting?"
- 22 Ibid., p. 2, c. 3, "Another Sale."
- 23 Ibid., April 21, 1888, p. 1, c. 2, "Pleasure Park -- Location Selected."
- 24 Ibid., p. 1, c. 3, "The Friends of Thomasville's Driving Park and Zoological Garden."
- 25 Ibid., April 6, 1889, p. 3, c. 5, "Glen Arven."
- 26 Ibid.
- 27 Daily Times-Enterprise, September 8, 1890.
- 28 Rogers, Thomas County 1865-1900, pp. 289-290.
- 29 The Thomasville Times, December 26, 1885, p. 3, c. 3, for editor's announcement, and p. 2, c. 4, for advertisement.
- 30 Ibid., January 23, 1886, p. 3, c. 8.
- 31 Ibid., February 13, 1886, p. 3.
- 32 Ibid., February 20, 1886, p. 3, c. 7.
- 33 This date was as far as research was carried.
- 34 The Thomasville Times, December 18, 1886, p. 3, c. 7.
- 35 The [Thomasville] Daily Times-Enterprise, September 8, 1890.
- 36 Ibid., April 3, 1895, p. 3, c. 4.

Chapter 3

JAMES LARMON AND FAMILY: OWNERS, 1894-1905

James Larmon, who officially purchased the house on March 21, 1894,¹ was born in Paducah, Kentucky, on February 1, 1852,² the second of two sons of James and Maria Louise Smedley Larmon. His parents were aged 46 and 24 years, respectively, at his birth.³

While still an infant, James moved with his family to Chicago, where his father was in real estate and was listed as a land agent under "real estate" in the 1854-55 directory of Chicago.⁴ When he died in 1873, The Chicago Tribune noted that James, Sr. had been involved in the city's real estate matters for approximately 20 years and had been a "pioneer in building constructions of the best class." Most of his construction consisted of business blocks, and almost everything he built was destroyed in the Chicago fire of 1871.⁵ Included in this was the Larmon Block, a tract containing businesses that he and his brothers owned and where their offices were located.⁶ The newspaper referred to his bringing "Kentucky capital" to Chicago, his own and that of others, and described him as a "man of thought as well as action, a student of books as well as men." His father's death when James, Jr. was just 21 years old left the son without the guidance and direct financial backing which Lapham found at the same age to get started in his shoe business. It has not yet been discovered what, if any, business Larmon went into until he moved to Cincinnati and was a founder of the Cincinnati Barbed Wire Fence Company in 1880.⁷

The barbed-wire industry began in 1873 when the first patent was



Trademark of The Cincinnati Barbed Wire Fence Co., c. 1890.

granted, it being for barbed attachments rather than for a complete barbed-wire fence system. Larmon and his business partners ventured into the field in 1880, less than a decade after the invention itself opened up the area. The company was incorporated May 14, 1880, "to engage in the business of manufacturing, and dealing in barbed wire, fencing materials, fence frames, wire, iron, steel, etc." They issued 300 shares of stock at \$100 each, making the company worth \$30,000.⁸

By August of that year, Larmon was president of the new company, his credit report indicating that he had come from Chicago and was a "young man of good character and ability," and that he would superintend the business.⁹ At age 28, this venture may have been Larmon's first independent effort. Although James, Jr.'s father died when James was 21, the parents had been well-to-do, and James may have had no need to work prior to his involvement in the barbed-wire industry.

Only months after the company was begun, it became involved, along with all others, in a court suit filed by the holders of the barbed-wire patent, Washburn and Moen of Worcester, Massachusetts. In the decision rendered December 15, 1880, the issue was decided in favor of the plaintiff/patent-holders. As a result of this decision, Larmon's company, along with 39 others, was licensed on February 1, 1881, by the patent-holders and required to pay a royalty of 75 cents per 100 pounds produced in the future, as well as to make monthly statements to Washburn and Moen. The licenses were good for 17 years, the life-span of a patent.

The licensed annual tonnage produced by the company, at least in the beginning, was 1,200 tons, this level placing them 17th nationwide in barbed-wire production during the first year following the court decision. Prior to this decision, they had manufactured 430,000 pounds of

barbed wire and were thus forced to pay \$2,580 in back damages to the patent-holders at the assessment of 60 cents per 100 pounds of wire produced.¹⁰ Despite all the legal problems with the patent-holders, apparently anticipated when the company was formed, their creditors found no problem with this.¹¹ The company was considered "safe for all wants" and continued to receive similar good ratings through December of 1883 from R.G. Dun & Co.,¹² the last handwritten report available.

In 1884 and again in 1890, Washburn and Moen sued the Cincinnati Barbed Wire Fence Company, in equity individually, to force the latter's payment of royalties as ordered in the 1881 decision. The defendants said the 1881 license granted them the:

use of certain patented improvements in barbed-wire fences and in fence-wire barbing machines. Defendant is authorized by its license to manufacture at one factory in the city of Cincinnati (using not more than 12 machines), 1,200 tons per annum of barbed fence wire, of the style represented by Exhibit A [not found in the published case], attached to license....¹³

The Cincinnati company won both suits, due to a legal technicality. The court decided in both cases that the suit should not have been brought in equity. The plaintiff/patent-holders were considered to be at fault for not "cracking down" on the other patent infringers and, thus, through its own mishandling of the situation, had contributed to the problem.¹⁴

The company's stock was increased by amending its charter in 1887 and 1890, an indication of prosperity. Then, in 1894, Larmon died, and the company's fortunes changed, either due to his death or the economic upheavals of the times, which, as previously mentioned, may have been a factor in Lapham's change of business. The company's stock was reduced in 1899, 1902, and 1911. In 1913, the company was dissolved after the

death of Harriet Larmon, widow of James, who had assumed the presidency of the company after her husband's death.¹⁵

Very little is known of James Larmon's interests aside from what information is to be found in his obituary. He and his mother, prior to his marriage, were listed in the 1886 Blue Book, or social register, of Cincinnati, where they were living at 450 West Sixth Street.¹⁶ James had joined the Queen City Club, a men's social club, ca. 1893,¹⁷ and it was at this club that he later died. Larmon was a member also of the executive board of the Cincinnati Freight Bureau, and he supported the Salvation Army and Children's Home of Cincinnati.¹⁸

In the mid-1880's, James Larmon married Harriet Esther Lill Mack, daughter of William and Ann Huff Mack, both natives of England. Harriet had been born in 1853 in Chicago.¹⁹ The Larmons adopted Arthur James, born 1885 and known as "Artie" as a youth.²⁰ The family of James Larmon, his mother, wife and son, were in Thomasville for "the season" in October of 1894.²¹

Although it is not known definitely how many winters the Larmons spent in Thomasville prior to purchasing their house there, they were in the city at least for the 1893-94 season, because at the end of their stay that year, James Larson purchased the Lapham house from Emma M. Lapham.²² The Larmons also owned a home at Lockland near Cincinnati in 1894, and family tradition indicates that they also vacationed in Highlands, North Carolina; Palatka, Florida, and Charlevoix, Michigan, although they are not known to have owned property in those locations.²³

Having purchased the Lapham home in the spring and then returned to Ohio, the Larmons arrived in Thomasville in October of 1894 to begin their first season in their winter home.²⁴ The house had had

unspecified improvements during their absence, and it had also been repainted.²⁵ Barely a month after their arrival, Larmon left on a business trip to New Orleans and Cincinnati, and while in Cincinnati, he died of heart disease at the age of 43 on December 11, 1894.²⁶

Larmon's funeral was held in Cincinnati at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, with at least 1,000 persons in attendance, including 600 employees of his company. He was also honored by delegations from the Chamber of Commerce and the Salvation Army, the latter being one of his interests. The Young Ladies' Hospital and Missionary Society was specifically mentioned in the obituary as having sent flowers. After the funeral, Larmon's body was interred in a receiving vault at Spring Grove Cemetery, a temporary location necessary until the family could secure a plot in the cemetery.²⁷

In 1899, Larmon was reinterred in a mausoleum that his widow had had built. The remains of James Larmon, Sr., who had died 26 years earlier, were brought to this mausoleum from Kentucky and reinterred. This structure remains today as a monument to the Larmon family, four generations of whom eventually rested there.²⁸

James Larmon, in his will written in 1892, left a monetary sum and half the stock in the company to his mother, the rest of the estate going to his wife, as required by law. In the event of his wife's death before him, he provided for his estate to be divided, leaving cash to two non-relatives and specifying that his son, Arthur, would receive only \$20,000 at age 25 and then only if he "proves sober, and competent to manage it." If Arthur did not meet those standards as specified by the will, he was to receive only the interest on the money during his



The Lapham-Patterson House during the Larmon ownership. This illustration was first published in 1899.

lifetime. If he died without issue, the money would go to the Children's Home of Cincinnati. The Larmon home at 137 Dayton Street was willed, if Harriet Larmon had died, to James' mother and son jointly. If the home were indeed to go to Arthur, the same provisions were to be in effect as with the money. James' mother was to receive the remainder of his estate after the specific monetary and property distribution to his son.

Eventually, the entire estate went to the widow, Harriet Larmon, as she did not predecease her husband.²⁹ The will is of interest, however, in indicating James Larmon's concerns and feelings for his family.

The Larmons and Thomasville

Although the Larmon family owned the Lapham-Patterson House for 11 years, including the years following the death of James Larmon, slightly longer than the Laphams, little is known of their activities in Thomasville. James' widow apparently kept some household furnishings in the house for several of the years that she owned the place, as she paid taxes on them in 1895 and 1899-1904 inclusive.³⁰ Harriet tried to sell the house in April of 1895, only months after her husband's death, but either she did not find a buyer, or she had a change of heart and removed it from the market. She left at the end of the season on April 28, 1895.³¹

In December of 1898, the Larmon house was the victim of robbers who broke into the well-stocked wine cellar there and stole many choice wines. This stock indicates that Harriet probably did entertain, or had planned to do so, at her winter home. There is no proof, however, that she was there at the time the robbery took place.³²



Maria (Smedley) Larmon in 1896

Information from two sources indicate that Harriet Larmon was an artist. The Pattersons, who purchased the furnished house from her in 1905, have ceramic pieces signed by her, as well as some paintings. The Gandy family of Thomasville, whose members were friends with the Larmons, possesses hand-painted china butter patties that are attributed to her, also. The Gandys have a photograph of Maria Louise Larmon [James, Jr.'s mother], signed and dated "March 25, 1896, Thomasville," indicating that family members had a close relationship with the Larmons. This is further substantiated by the fact that Larmon Gandy was named after this family at his birth in 1903. The two families rekindled a friendship in Thomasville that had begun during the Civil War.

Charles Gandy, a Confederate veteran and grandfather of Larmon Gandy, had a son who owned a meat market in Thomasville. Along with another grandson, T.C. Gandy, Charles Gandy visited Harriet and her mother-in-law during the latter period of their owning the Lapham house. The young T.C. Gandy, born in 1895 and five years old at the time, remembers their being received in the parlor and being service refreshments, although he remembers nothing else of the incidents, which is understandable, considering his age.³³

Ill health may have forced Harriet Larmon to sell the house to James C. Patterson in 1905,³⁴ as her death certificate, issued in 1913, states that she had suffered from cancer for eight years.

John E. Larmon, brother of James Larmon, Jr., was often a visitor to Thomasville as well. It is known that he arrived during the winter of his brother's death. When he himself died in Smithville, Missouri, near Kansas City, of Bright's Disease at age 54, it was noted in the Thomasville newspaper that he had been a frequent visitor to the city.³⁵

The Larmons Since Thomasville

After 1905, when Harriet Larmon sold the Thomasville home to James G. Patterson, the Larmon family slowly declined in numbers and prominence.

In 1912, Maria Louise Larmon died on February 9 at the age of 84 in Liberty, Missouri. She had moved there around 1902, presumably to be with her son, who died the following year, 1903, but she remained with his family.³⁶

Harriet Larmon, after having suffered for eight years with cancer, died in Cincinnati on July 28, 1913, and was interred in the family mausoleum.³⁷ Prior to her death, she had had built a rather large mansion for herself and her son in Cincinnati's fashionable suburb of College Hill. Her granddaughters, who grew up there after the death of "Madame Larmon," as she was called, have described the house as having been constructed around 1900. Situated on a nine-acre tract, the house had three floors and a cupola [see illustration on page 62]. Other features included landscaped gardens, many types of animals kept within the grounds, and a large playhouse for the children. Having approximately 28 rooms, it apparently required 12 servants to manage it. Following the death of Arthur James Larmon in 1929, his widow (by then remarried) and her three daughters moved to Florida in the 1930's. The house was torn down, the lot was subdivided, and a street was constructed through the property, Larmon Court.³⁸

As mentioned earlier, James and Harriet Larmon had only one son, Arthur James. A graduate of the 1906 class of Kenyon College, he was a partner in the Rahn-Larmon Company, a tool manufacturing firm in



The Larmon Home in Cincinnati, Ohio, c. 1920



Cincinnati, until his early death on Christmas Day, 1929, at the age of 44. Surviving him were the widow, the former Blanche Metzger, three daughters, and a son. The son, James A., died in an automobile accident at age 19 in 1931, while in college. The widow, having remarried Henry M. Fisher (d. 1939), moved with her husband and daughters first to Florida and then to California. She died in California in 1955 and was buried at Palo Alto, rather than being interred in the Larmon family mausoleum. Of the three daughters, two survive: Blanche Larmon (Mrs. D.E. Mogensen) of Redwood City, California, and Harriet Larmon (Mrs. Brooks Elms) of Winter Haven, Florida, and Highlands, North Carolina, who carried on the tradition of maintaining both summer and winter homes. Descendants of the third daughter, Jane Larmon, who was the wife of Dale Willis Edwards, D.D.S., of Jacksonville at the time of her death, live in that city and elsewhere.³⁹ John E. Larmon's daughter, Lizzie, and her descendants (if any) have not been traced.⁴⁰

FOOTNOTES

Chapter 3

James Larmon and Family: Owners, 1894-1905

- ¹ Thomas County, Ga., Superior Court, Deed Book CC (1893-94), pp. 590-91. Deed dated March 21, 1894, and recorded March 27, 1894.
- ² Statistical Records, Cemetery of Spring Grove, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Hall and Company Chicago City Directory 1854-5, p. 172. He is not listed in the 1852-3 directory.
- ⁵ The Chicago Daily Tribune, Tuesday, March 4, 1873, p. 3, c. 5, "Obituary: Death of James Larmon."
- ⁶ Richard Edwards, Chicago Census Report; ... A Complete Directory of the City, 1871, p. 640.
- ⁷ Larmon does not appear in the Chicago city directories for the period of 1873-80.
- ⁸ Henry D. and Frances McCallum, The Wire That Fenced the West (University of Oklahoma Press, 1965), pp. 29, 42. Corporate Charter and Associated Papers, Secretary of State's Office, Columbus, Ohio.
- ⁹ Credit Ledgers for Ohio, p. 331, Dun & Co. Records, Baker Library, Harvard University.
- ¹⁰ C. Boone McClure, "History of the Manufacture of Barbed Wire," Chapter 8, Panhandle-Plains Historical Review, XXXI, 1958.
- ¹¹ Credit Ledgers for Ohio.
- ¹² Ibid. With the advent of the typewriter, the R. Dun and Co. manuscript volumes cease and thus the collection at Harvard ends at this point. It is not known whether or not the Dun and Bradstreet Co. of New York has later credit ledgers.
- ¹³ Washburn and Moen vs. Cincinnati Barbed-Wire Fence Co., 22 Federal Reporter 712-3.
- ¹⁴ Legal analysis of cases: Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Co. vs. Cincinnati Barbed-Wire Fence Co., 22 Federal Reporter 712 (decided November 8, 1884) and 42 Federal Reporter, 657 (decided June 20, 1890) by David A. Runnion, attorney-at-law, Georgia Department of Law, June, 1977.

- 15 Corporate Charter and Associated Papers.
- 16 1886-7 Cincinnati and Suburbs: The Graphic Blue Book and Family Directory (1886: copyright copy received at the Library of Congress, November 17, 1886), p. 95. Other persons were listed as Mr. and Mrs., and since James was listed just with his mother, it is presumed he was single at the time. In a similar book for 1900, The Cincinnati Society Address Book ... The Social Register, Edition for 1900, received by the Library of Congress on March 15, 1900, there are no Larmons listed.
- 17 Mrs. Devereux's Blue Book of Cincinnati: A Society Register and Convenient Reference Book, by C.A.R. Devereux. (Library of Congress copy received October 17, 1894.) James Larmon is listed on the membership roster of the Queen City Club, but nowhere else in the book.
- 18 The first two from his obituary, the latter from his will, written in 1892.
- 19 Death certificate of Harriet Larmon, File No. 40453, State of Ohio, Division of Vital Statistics. Informant was her son, Arthur J. Larmon.
- 20 Death certificate of Arthur J. Larmon, File No. 77619, State of Ohio, Division of Vital Statistics. Informant was his widow, Blanche. The story of his adoption came from a telephone interview with his daughter, Mrs. Blanche Larmon Mogensen, of Redwood City, Calif., in September of 1976. She said that he never knew of his adoption until after the death of his mother, in 1913, when a member of his natural family came to his business and tried to collect money from him. It was then that he learned that his mother had been paying money to this family throughout the previous years.
- 21 The [Thomasville] Daily Times-Enterprise, October 26, 1894, p. 1, announced the arrival of Maria Larmon and young Artie by train the day before, October 25. The issue of November 1, 1894 (page unknown), announced the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. James Larmon, whose transportation is not mentioned, although it is assumed they arrived by train. [This item also appeared on November 3, 1894, p. 3, c. 2, in the weekly edition.]
- 22 Ibid., April 14, 1894, p. 3, c. 4 (weekly edition).
- 23 Lockland: mentioned in his obituary in the Cincinnati newspaper; Palatka, Highlands, and Charlevoix from discussions with his granddaughters in September of 1976. It may be that Highlands was visited by Arthur and Blanche Larmon, rather than Arthur's parents.
- 24 The [Thomasville] Daily Times-Enterprise, November 3, 1894, p. 3, c. 2 (weekly edition).
- 25 Ibid., and November 22, 1894, p. 1, c. 3 (daily edition).

- 26 Ibid., November 27, 1894, p. 3, c. 3 (daily edition), announced his trip and the issue of December 12, 1894, p. 4, c. 2, announced his death, "A Sad and Sudden Death" (also in weekly issue of December 15, 1894, p. 3, c. 2).
- 27 The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette, Wednesday morning, December 12, 1894, "Prominent Business Man Gone;" and Thomasville Daily Times-Enterprise (daily), December 18, 1894, p. 3, c. 3; and the weekly edition of December 22, 1894, p. 4, c. 5. Larmon was buried on December 14 in the public vault and reburied May 11, 1895. His body was then removed to the newly-built mausoleum on May 24, 1899, according to cemetery office records.
- 28 Office records, Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio. These cards give details of the births, deaths, family relationships, and burial of the various members on the lot and in the vault. Not everyone in the family is in the mausoleum. Mr. Metzger, father of Mrs. Arthur Larmon, is buried in the ground outside the mausoleum.
- 29 Will of James Larmon, written February 15, 1892, probated 1894, Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division, Hamilton County, Ohio.
- 30 Thomas County, Ga., Tax Digests. Georgia Department of Revenue copies, located at Georgia Department of Archives and History [see Appendix].
- 31 The [Thomasville] Daily Times-Enterprise, April 3, 1895, p. 3, c. 4, "For Sale," the advertisement had been placed in the newspaper on March 24. Her departure was announced in the issue of April 30, 1895, p. 1.
- 32 The [Thomasville] Daily Times-Enterprise, December 31, 1898, p. 1, c. 2.
- 33 Interviews with the Patterson descendants in 1973-74 by John A. Patterson, curator. Interview by the author with Mrs. Harry L. Hershey (Patti Gandy) and her brother, T.C. Gandy of Thomasville, January 26, 1977, concerning their family and the Larmons. Although they did not have any of the butter dishes on hand, they said they are signed "Gandy, 1897," and are in possession of Larmon Gandy, Jacksonville, Fla. The picture is in the possession of T.C. Gandy, Jr. Although the Gandy tradition is that Charles Gandy, grandfather of the interviewees, served in the Civil War in the same unit with "Mr. Larmon" and that the latter was an officer, it has been impossible to document this claim. James Larmon, Sr., the only male in the family of combat age, was 49 at the end of the war. His son, James, Jr., who owned the house, was only 13 at the end of the war and probably did not serve. Elder brother/son John was 15 at the end of the war. Kentucky's archives personnel found nothing on the name Larmon, and the name does not appear in any list of Confederate or Federal officers in the war. According to his Civil War pension application at the Georgia Department of Archives and History, Charles Gandy did indeed fight at Chancellorsville and lose an arm. The author has been unable to determine how or why he knew this family, if he actually did prior to their coming to Thomasville. Although the Gandy family has a picture of Maria Larmon, who was Charles Gandy's senior

by 14 years, it might be more probable that when he visited the house that both women were present and that Harriet Larmon, 11 years his junior, was just as acquainted with him as her mother-in-law was.

- 34 The death certificate of Harriet Larmon, State of Ohio, states that she was ill with cancer for eight years prior to her death in 1913, and that would be 1905. Her health could have been her motivation.
- 35 Cemetery office records, Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio; and The [Thomasville] Times-Enterprise (semi-weekly edition), June 13, 1903, p. 5, c. 5, "J.E. Larmon Dead;" this copy is at the Probate Office, Thomas County Courthouse, Thomasville, Ga., and is not on Microfilm. John Larmon's visit is documented in The [Thomasville] Daily Times-Enterprise, February 9, 1895, p. 1.
- 36 Death certificate of Maria Louise Larmon, File No. 4576, Missouri Division of Health, Jefferson City, Mo. Informant was her grandson, Arthur J. Larmon. The certificate indicates that she had lived in the state for 10 years.
- 37 Death certificate of Harriet Larmon, and office records at Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 38 Telephone interview of September, 1976, with Blanche (Larmon) Mogensen of Redwood City, Calif., and personal interview of October, 1976, with Harriet (Larmon) Elms of Highlands, N.C., and Winter Haven, Fla., on a visit to Atlanta.
- 39 See Footnote 33 and letter of November 1, 1976, from Kenyon College verifying the graduation of Arthur J. Larmon in 1906. The Larmon family has a scrapbook, not seen by the author, of pictures from the period when they lived in Ohio, as well as several silver pieces variously engraved, much belonging to Maria Larmon and her daughter-in-law, Harriet. Spring Grove Cemetery records; interviews with descendants.
- 40 His Thomasville obituary cites his having only a daughter. The 1900 Census of Clay County, Missouri, shows him living there with his wife Ella, aged 52, and his daughter, Lizzie, aged 21. Mrs. John Larmon stated that she had borne two children, but only one was living. John E. Larmon was a farmer who owned his own farm and had been married for 25 years. The same family appeared in the 1880 Census of Lawrence County, Ohio, with wife, whose full name was Isabel, and elder daughter, Agnus [sic], aged four.

Chapter 4

JAMES G. PATTERSON: OWNER, 1905-1926

On September 15, 1905,¹ James G. Patterson, Jr., officially bought the Larmon property in Thomasville through real-estate agent E.M. Mallette,² rather than having dealt directly with Mrs. Larmon. With the purchase by the Patterson family, the house became a full-time residence, having been used as a winter home by its previous owners.

A South Carolinian by birth, Patterson was born October 27, 1851,³ in Horry County. His great-grandfather, Dr. Daniel Patterson, had immigrated to America from Scotland, arriving in North Carolina by 1770,⁴ and had served the Patriot cause during the American Revolution.⁵

James G., Jr. grew up in Horry County, the fifth of 13 children and fourth son born to James G. and Martha Marlow Patterson.⁶ Although too young to fight in the Civil War himself, two of his elder brothers, John W. and Angus G., served in the Confederate Army. John Wesley Patterson, the eldest, died on February 3, 1865, while working for a doctor in the service of the Confederacy near Columbia, South Carolina. One of the younger James' recollections was going with his father to Columbia to bring back the body of his brother in a cart for burial in the family cemetery. The bereaved mother made a final suit of clothes for her eldest son before he was laid to rest.⁷

In Horry County, the turpentine or naval stores industry became a major occupation in the late 1850s, and it continued to be a primary industry in that county into the early 20th Century.⁸ The Patterson farm in 1860 consisted of 1,300 acres, only 25 of which were cultivated

and these probably only for food for the family.⁹ The senior Patterson may have already begun turpentine; this large tract of land contained the pine forest needed for the extraction of resin to be processed into turpentine. No slaves were utilized on the property.

During the Civil War, the Patterson lands were devastated by Federal soldiers who marched through the region near the end of the war.¹⁰ The family suffered many losses of their crops and livestock, as did most Southern families who were in the path of the Northern army.¹¹ By the Reconstruction period, the Pattersons had also lost five of their children,¹² although only one death was caused by the war.

James G. Patterson, Jr., first worked in the turpentine business with his father on land surrounding what is now Loris, South Carolina.¹³ During the 1870s, he moved to Whiteville, North Carolina, where he met Mary B. Smith, widow of the Reverend Colin A. Cameron, a Presbyterian minister.¹⁴ They were married in 1879 in Wilmington at her brother's residence.¹⁵ In 1880, James ran a mercantile or general store in Whiteville,¹⁶ where he became an alderman on the city council. A street in that town still bears his name from the period of his residence there.¹⁷ At some time, he went into business with his wife's brother, Lloyd Smith, in Cartersville, South Carolina.¹⁸

In the early 1880s, the couple returned to Loris, and James went back into the turpentine business there near his father, who also operated a mercantile store.¹⁹ At this time, the younger Patterson became partners with A.F. Toon, starting the first business in the newly-organized town of Loris and operating one of three turpentine stills in the area.

Loris grew up on part of the elder Patterson's land, and he donated

land for the depot, around which the town grew, when the railroad came through in the early 1880s. The family graveyard became the town cemetery. A post office was soon established, and James Patterson was named the first postmaster, with the post office being located in his store. He served in this capacity from 1888 until 1894.²⁰ The main street through Loris is still known as Patterson Street.

As the turpentine industry depleted the pine resources in the Carolinas, the turpentiners turned their attention to Georgia and Florida, where vast pine forests abounded, yet untapped by their tools. By 1880, Georgia had become the primary turpentine-producing state.²¹

It was Georgia that Angus Patterson, elder brother of James, moved to around 1881-82²² with his wife's family, the Peacocks. Angus settled in Telfair County and went into business with his brother-in-law, L.T. Peacock, in 1883, while his father-in-law settled in Pulaski County. The Peacocks had been involved in the turpentine industry since antebellum days, and when they returned to Georgia in the 1870s, they resumed working in this industry.²³

In 1896, Angus Patterson sold the turpentine still which he had operated for several years jointly to Mary B. Patterson (presumably for her husband's use) and Sidney A. Floyd.²⁴ Angus, whose business, A.G. Patterson and Company, included his son and Floyd,²⁵ eventually moved to Montgomery County.

By 1898, all four Patterson brothers -- Angus, James, Ashley and George -- were in Telfair County, Georgia, and were presumably working in turpentining, a major industry there.²⁶ The brothers owned turpentine stills in or near the communities of Alamo, McRae and Scotland, Georgia, among others.²⁷ In 1899, Mary and James Patterson sold their turpentine

still in Telfair County to his brother, George T., and cast their sights on Thomas County, Georgia.²⁸

In 1900, Mary and the children were living in Whiteville, North Carolina, with her mother, while James and Sidney Floyd were in Thomas County at a turpentine still near Cairo.²⁹ During the previous year, James and Mary had obtained this land in Thomas County from his brother, W. Ashley Patterson,³⁰ who had preceded them to southwest Georgia in the 1890s.

Shortly thereafter, Mary and the children joined James at the turpentine still site, where they moved into a house on the property which was located on the Ochlocknee Road near the railroad. With the reunion of the family, James ended years of seasonal commuting between the turpentine stills in Georgia and his family's residence at either Loris or Whiteville during these years of transition.³¹

The two elder Patterson sons, James Lloyd, born February 1, 1881, and Thomas Alexander, born November 11, 1882, had begun to accompany their father to the stills when they had turned about 14 years of age or so, ca. 1895-96. After the family moved to Thomas County, these two sons attended Stanley Business College in Thomasville, where they boarded with their uncle, Ashley Patterson, and his family.³²

For the younger school-age children, Patterson hired a tutor, Ruby Stevens. The family lived too far out in the county to commute to town, and he chose for them not to be boarded in town.³³

In the late summer of 1905, James Patterson began negotiations for a house in the city of Thomasville. His wife had refused to live in Ochlocknee, a much smaller town closer to their turpentine camp. The family moved into the house on Dawson Street in the fall of that year, and the

children began attending the local schools.³⁴

Patterson's business prospered, and he eventually acquired turpentine camps in both Georgia and Florida. He spent a great deal of time traveling to and from these camps, supervising the work, paying the workers, and securing new pine forests to tap as the trees used for turpentine were worn out.³⁵

Patterson was a stockholder in the Peninsular Naval Stores Company of Jacksonville, Florida, where he shipped the turpentine and rosin gathered and processed at his camps. This company then processed and exported the finished product. In 1911, he was elected a director of the company, and he and his wife often traveled together to Jacksonville for board meetings.³⁶

The turpentine business was operated under various names and various locations, and there were managed by he and his two elder sons, James Lloyd and Thomas A. Patterson.³⁷ The Thomas County operation, known as Patterson and Son, was run by Tom Patterson. After his marriage in 1909, Tom lived for a year or so at the turpentine still in Stemper (now Lutz) near Tampa, Florida. He then returned to Thomasville and ran the Thomas County operation until his death in 1930.³⁸

The Florida operations were under the direct supervision of James L. Patterson, the major turpentine stills there being located near Tallahassee at Centerville or Six Mile Pond, and near Tampa at Stemper. Following his marriage in 1913 to Marie Fink, a nurse, James L. often had his wife with him at the camps, much to the consternation of the community residents.

Bruce Patterson, the youngest son, was involved in the turpentine business for a short time after he quit school. He went to Florida and



James G. Patterson, Jr. with his grandchildren at their baptism, c. 1916



Olga Peterson with her grandchildren at their baptism, - 1916

stayed there for a brief time with his brother; however, after his father suffered a stroke, he left the business and joined the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, eventually becoming a conductor.⁴⁰

James Patterson was a staunch Presbyterian, as had been his Scotch forebears. He was also a Mason, being a Blue Lodge member in Thomasville. Although his formal education was ended abruptly at the beginning of the Civil War when he was nine years old, he spent much of his free time reading in his later years. Due to his business, he apparently had little time for any other hobbies or amusements.⁴¹

Alice Patterson remembers her father as a kind man, "a very happy man," who rarely raised his voice to his children or who otherwise ever displayed anger. He was also known as a hard worker. Although many men of his era hunted, he was opposed to killing any living thing, and he only carried a gun for protection from snakes that might be encountered at the turpentine camps. His business sense was gained from his own working experience, rather than from any formal education, but he provided his children with the educational advantages that he had missed. Many of the roads leading to his turpentine stills were constructed by Patterson and his work crews, and his constant work, which left little time for leisure activities, was probably a contributing cause to a paralytic stroke which he suffered about 1914.⁴²

This stroke, which occurred while he was visiting the turpentine still at Centerville, Florida, forced him to curtail many of his business activities. For as long as he was able, however, he visited his camps and paid the workers personally. His daughter Alice drove him to several of the Florida camps in order for him to survey the operations.

Over the years, his condition worsened, and he died at the home on Dawson Street on April 30, 1926, at the age of 74. Following a funeral

service held in the parlor of the home, his body was buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Thomasville.⁴³

Patterson Still Road, which led to his Thomas County turpentine still, retains his name. Descendants continue to reside on this road on the Patterson property.

In addition to his wife and children, James Patterson's parents, brothers, and sisters had some bearing on his career in the naval stores industry as well. His father and mother died in 1891 and 1908 respectively, the latter having made many visits during the winter months to Thomas County and Thomasville to stay with James and his family or with her other son, W. Ashley Patterson, and his family, who also lived there.⁴⁴

Most of James' brothers and sisters were also involved in the naval stores or turpentine industry. His three brothers, Angus G., William Ashley, and George Thomas, were all involved in this business, and all moved to Georgia during the 1880s and 1890s to pursue their careers.

Angus G. Patterson (1847-1911)⁴⁵ moved to Georgia with his Peacock in-laws, ca. 1881-82, and settled in Telfair County, near McRae.⁴⁶ There, he eventually ran the A.G. Patterson & Company naval stores firm at Scotland, Georgia, as well as other firms at other locations.⁴⁷ A veteran of the Civil War, he lived for a short while in Montgomery County, near Alamo, and at his death in 1911, he was buried in McRae, Georgia.⁴⁸

William Ashley Patterson (1856-1932)⁴⁹ secured land in Thomas County in the 1890s and moved there from Telfair County,⁵⁰ his family joining him around 1900. Although he first lived out in the county, in 1906 he purchased the Stuart Hotel in Thomasville and lived there for about a year with his family. After selling the hotel, he and his family moved

into a residence across from the Tosco Hotel until around 1915, when they moved to Florida. Ashley ran a turpentine still near Pensacola, Florida, on Santa Rosa Island for several years and was living in Gainesville, Florida, at the time of his death in 1932. He is buried in Gainesville.⁵¹

George Thomas Patterson (1861-1911)⁵², who married Ida L. Jordan in 1882 in South Carolina, lived there until about 1887, when they moved to Scotland, Georgia, near his brother Angus. He began to operate his own naval stores business around 1893 and had several locations in Georgia over the next 15 years. Around 1908, he moved to Whigham, Georgia, near Thomasville, where he ran a turpentine still. He died in Whigham in 1911, and his descendants continue to reside there.⁵³

James Patterson's four sisters were often visitors to the family home on Dawson Street in Thomasville. The eldest sister, Martha Lenora Cox (1859-1928), was the wife of Daniel E. Ravenwood Cox. Although her family lived in Georgia for a short time and her son Oscar was in the turpentine business there, she and her husband returned to South Carolina. They are buried in the family lot at Loris.

Margaret Emma Holt, born in 1863, was the wife of McDonald Holt, who was in the turpentine business around Nichols and Hazelhurst, Georgia. One of their sons, William Kelly Holt, was not only in the turpentine business, but was also mayor of Rebecca, Georgia, and state representative and state senator from Wilcox County in the 1930s.

Harriett "Hattie" Frierson, the third sister, was born in 1867 and became the wife of William Frierson. The couple lived at Hahira, Georgia.

The fourth and youngest sister, Mary Frances Jenerette (1869-1953), was also the youngest child of the Patterson family. She and her husband, Ernest Pickens Jenerette, lived in Mullins, South Carolina.⁵⁴

FOOTNOTES

Chapter 4

James G. Patterson: Owner, 1905-1926

- ¹ Thomas County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deed Book PP, pp. 502-03.
- ² Telephone interview with Alice P. Stevens of Savannah, Georgia, in spring of 1977. His local prominence is verified by an advertisement signed by E.M. Mallette, president of the business league of Thomasville, in The Georgia State Gazetteer ... (1896), p. 620.
- ³ Tombstone in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Thomasville, Georgia; Patterson Family History, by Louise Covington.*
- ⁴ Patterson Family History.
- ⁵ DAR Patriot Index (Washington, D.C., the D.A.R., 1966), lists Patriot ancestors of D.A.R. members.
- ⁶ Patterson Family History; United States Census of 1850, Schedule 1, Free Inhabitants, p. 39-B; United States Census of 1860, Schedule 1, Kingston Parish, p. 103, both Horry County, S.C.
- ⁷ Patterson Family History; interview with Alice P. Stevens of Savannah, Ga., and Ashley P. Cox, Jr., of Macon, Ga., both of whom repeated a similar family tradition. Mr. Cox also has a copy of a letter by John W. Patterson only a month prior to his death. Mr. Cox also said that there is a record in the War of the Rebellion series on the Civil War of a "Mr. Patterson" going through the enemy lines.
- ⁸ C.B. Berry, "Horry County's Oldest Industry," Independent Republic Quarterly, Vol. II, No. 1, January, 1968, p. 11ff.; and A.J. Baker, "Turpentine Industry in Horry County," Vol. II, No. 2, April, 1968, p. 13ff.
- ⁹ United States Census of 1860, Schedule 4, Agricultural, p. 25, family no. 26, Horry County, S.C.; also Schedule 2, Slave Inhabitants, indicated no slaves owned by this family.
- ¹⁰ Interview with Alice P. Stevens of Savannah, Ga., by the author.
- ¹¹ Ibid.
- ¹² Patterson Family History includes the tombstone inscriptions from the cemetery at Loris, S.C.
- ¹³ Interview with Leila Patterson Edwards of Quitman, Ga., September of 1977, by the author.
- ¹⁴ United States Census of 1880, Columbus County, N.C., p. 34, E.D. 53, S.D. 3, Whiteville Township, taken June 17, 1880, family no. 309-12.

Smith Family Bible (for marriage record) now in possession of Mrs. Milford J. Auger (Olive Baldwin), Burlington, N.C.; and interview with Alice P. Stevens, by the author

- 15 Interview with Leila Patterson Edwards of Quitman, Ga., September of 1977, by the author.
- 16 1880 Census, Columbus County, N.C., as cited in footnote 14 above; occupation verified by Alice P. Stevens.
- 17 Interview with Alice P. Stevens; and Patterson Family History.
- 18 Interview with Leila Patterson Edwards of Quitman, Ga., September of 1977.
- 19 Ibid.
- 20 Louise S. Eidson, "Lingering in Loris," Independent Republic Quarterly, Vol. II, No. 1, January, 1968, p. 3; and letter of October 26, 1977, from the National Archives and Records Service about the postmaster-ship.
- 21 K.H. Thomas, Jr., McCranie Turpentine Still (1976), pp. 4-5.
- 22 History of Pulaski and Bleckley Counties, Georgia, 1808-1956, 11, pp. 574-76 (about Albert Peacock's return to Georgia), and pp. 582-83 about the arrival of Curtis Peacock, grandfather of Mrs. Angus Patterson, in Georgia in 1881. Also, Telfair County, Ga. Tax Digest for 1883, 1357 G.M.D., McVile (later Scotland, Ga.), where L.T. Peacock and A.G. Patterson were in business as "Peacock, Patterson & Co." Nothing indicates that this was a turpentine business, and the county history (above) at p. 583 states that L.T. Peacock did not become involved in naval stores until 1888.
- 23 Ibid.
- 24 Telfair County, Ga., Superior Court, Deed Book EE (1897-98), p. 80ff. Deed dated February 1, 1896, and recorded September 4, 1897, for \$1,000.
- 25 Telfair County, Ga. Superior Court, Deed Book BB (1893-94), pp. 405-11. This is a mortgage for the A.G. Patterson & Co. and is an excellent itemization of what was at the still located on Lot 99 in the Eight District, Telfair County, which is near the center of present-day Telfair County.
- 26 Telfair County, Ga., Tax Digest for 1898, shows poll taxes being paid by W.A. Patterson in the 1344 G.M.D. (Milan); G.T. and J.G. Patterson in the 1284 G.M.D. (Cobbville). A.G. Patterson and wife paid land taxes in the 1357 G.M.D. (Scotland), but Angus paid no poll tax, indicating he must have lived elsewhere.
- 27 Interview with Alice P. Stevens of Savannah, Ga., by the author.

- 28 Telfair County, Ga., Superior Court, Deed Book EE, p. 81, deed dated August 31, 1897, for \$500; Deed Book FF (1898-1901), pp. 80-81, deed dated January 10, 1899, for \$500. The James G. Pattersons gave their legal residence on this latter deed as Columbus County, N.C.
- 29 1900 Census, Thomas County, Ga., Vol. 67, E.D. 90, Sheet 11, Line 26. He was living as a boarder in the household of Sidney A. Floyd in the 753 G.M.D., Cairo, Ga. Mrs. Mary B. Patterson and the children were living in 1900 in Columbus County, N.C.
- 30 Thomas County, Ga., Superior Court, Deed Book GG (1897-1902), p. 633, deed dated November 27, 1899, for \$2,500. Recorded January 11, 1902. This deed was for 79 acres of Lot 319, 17th District, and 250 acres, Lot 358, 17th District. Both lots are still in Thomas County.
- 31 See footnote 13.
- 32 Interviews recorded in 1970 with James Lloyd Patterson (1881-1970), shortly before his death, as remembered by his daughter, Mrs. Bernard Lanigan, and abstracted by his grandson, John Lanigan. Also, interviews in September of 1977 with Leila Patterson Edwards of Quitman, Ga.
- 33 The 1900 Census, as cited, indicated that the Patterson family members were not permanent residents of Georgia. Interview with Alice P. Stevens and Thomas County, Ga., tax digests do not show his paying poll tax until 1902, when he was in the 753 G.M.D. (Cairo).
- 34 Interview with Alice P. Stevens; Thomas County, Ga., tax digests do not show James G. Patterson living in the Thomasville district until the digests after 1904. In that year, they are in G.M.D. 1227, Ochlocknee, owning 737 acres of land.
- 35 Interviews with Alice P. Stevens and Leila P. Edwards; also K.H. Thomas, Jr., McCranie's Turpentine Still (1976), p. 45.
- 36 Thomas County, Ga., Tax Digest for 1904, G.M.D. 1224, shows this company was paying three polls. James L. was paying a separate poll. Records of the Peninsula Naval Stores Co. are located at the Georgia Department of Archives and History, Manuscripts Section.
- 37 Taped interviews with James L. Patterson, 1970, as abstracted by the Lanigan family. The Peninsula Naval Stores records at the Georgia Department of Archives and History support this.
- 38 Interview with Eva Patterson Carver, daughter of Thomas A. Patterson, in August of 1977.
- 39 Interview with Jimmie Patterson Lanigan, daughter of James L. Patterson, summer, 1977.
- 40 Interviews with Alice P. Stevens; Eva Carver and Stella Whitley, daughters of Thomas A. Patterson; and Leila P. Edwards, spring and summer, 1977.

- 41 Interview with Alice P. Stevens; and Patterson Family History.
- 42 Ibid.
- 43 Interview with Alice P. Stevens and Leila P. Edwards; his obituary, published May 1, 1926, p. 5, c. 3, in The Thomasville Times-Enterprise; his death certificate was not located by the Vital Records the Department of Human Resources, State of Georgia.
- 44 Interview with Alice P. Stevens; and Patterson Family History.
- 45 Daily [Thomasville] Times-Enterprise, August 11, 1911, p. 3, c. 2.
- 46 See footnotes 22 and 23.
- 47 Georgia State Gazetteer and Business Directory (Atlanta, Ga., 1896), shows the following firms: A.G. Patterson & Co., Cobbville; Patterson & Stewart, Scotland; Massey & Patterson, Alamo.
- 48 Telephone interview with Ashley P. Cox, Jr., of Macon, Ga., a great-nephew of James G. Patterson, summer, 1977.
- 49 Tax Department, Gainesville, Fla., indicated W.A. Patterson was buried in that city's Evergreen Cemetery on October 18, 1932.
- 50 See footnote 30.
- 51 Interview with Mrs. Bess Patterson Moysey of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on August 19, 1977. She is a daughter of W.A. Patterson. Some facts substantiated by cross-checking with Alice P. Stevens and Mrs. John M. Counts, Leighton, Alabama, the latter being a granddaughter of W.A. Patterson.
- 52 Daily [Thomasville] Times-Enterprise, May 8, 1911, p. 2.
- 53 Interview and letters, August of 1977, with Mrs. Julius Newberry (Marjorie S. Patterson) of Whigham, Ga., a granddaughter of George T. Patterson and his obituary from The Whigham News, May 12, 1911, p. 1, c. 1, in her possession.
- 54 Patterson Family History; and interviews with Ashley P. Cox, Jr., of Macon, Ga., and the daughters of Tom Patterson.

* Patterson Family History compiled for the Department of Natural Resources in 1977 by Louise Memory Covington of Whiteville, N.C. Original on file with the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources. Hereinafter cited as Patterson Family History.

Chapter 5

THE JAMES G. PATTERSON FAMILY

Mary (Smith) Patterson

Mary B. Smith was born May 2, 1853, in Whiteville, North Carolina, the second child and second daughter among six children born to Samuel B. Smith (1828-1863) and Narcissa Byrne Smith (1829-1915), who had married on February 7, 1850.¹ Her father was listed variously as an engineer and a master mechanic in the census of the town of Whiteville.² After the early death of her father, Mary, her mother, and the other three surviving children (two had died young) continued to live at the homestead. Although she survived her husband by 52 years, Mary's mother never remarried, and she remained in Whiteville until her death.³

Mary married first at age 16 on February 16, 1870, to the Reverend Colin A. Cameron, a Presbyterian minister, who died two years later, on May 22, in a railroad accident. After five years as a widow, she then became the wife of James G. Patterson on March 6, 1879.⁴

The Pattersons had eight children -- Narcissa Pearl, born in January of 1880, who died one month later; James Lloyd, born on February 1, 1881; Thomas Alexander, born on November 11, 1882; Leila Gould, born on November 10, 1884; Clyde Kirkland, born on July 4, 1888; Alice Martha, born on July 4, 1890; Samuel Bruce, born on June 25, 1892; and Mary Byrne, born on October 20, 1896. With the exception of the first and last children, the other six married, and five of them have descendants.⁵ [The children will be discussed later in this chapter.]

Some of Mary Patterson's activities and interests were quilting (mainly when her mother and mother-in-law visited), tatting and crocheting.

She also enjoyed sewing and related arts, and she made most of the family's clothes. Gardening or "yard work" was not to her liking, but she did preserve food and make wine from the grapes grown on their farm. At night, she read, often to her husband. Also a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Thomasville, Mary had been well educated, having been taught by her aunt.

A "tiny woman with blonde features and bright blue eyes," Mary Patterson is remembered as a strict disciplinarian with her children and a very observant chaperone for her teenage daughters. She did not mind speaking out on most issues, and those around her knew her likes and dislikes usually without having to ask.⁶

Following her husband's death in 1926, Mrs. Patterson lived at the family home with the aid of a few servants. Having suffered a broken hip several months earlier, she died at the homeplace on August 25, 1929, at the age of 76. The funeral was held in the parlor of the home, and her body was buried beside that of her husband in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Thomasville.⁷

The Children

The following are brief biographical sketches of the Patterson children.

James Lloyd Patterson

James Lloyd Patterson, the eldest son of James G. and Mary Patterson, was born on February 1, 1881, and died in Quitman, Georgia on September 15, 1970. James L. began working with his father in the turpentine industry at age 14 in 1895, coming down from the family home in North Carolina to Georgia for the season. He attended Horner Military Academy in

Virginia and Stanley Business College in Thomasville, Georgia.

When the family moved to Thomas County, shortly after 1900, James Lloyd was included in his father's business, which in 1904 was known as J.G. Patterson & Sons. At the turpentine camps, his duties included working in the commissary, then after business school, he was bookkeeper. Still later, he was a "woods rider," checking on the workers who would be out collecting the resin from the trees.

He remained in the turpentine industry until the 1930s, managing the family operations at various locations in Florida. After the family left the business, James Lloyd became a "gentleman farmer" and lived outside Thomasville on a large farm which was formerly the Hawkins place.

Once shot by a drunken local man, James Lloyd was taken to the Thomasville Hospital for recovery. It was there that he was treated by Maria Magdalena Fink, a native of Wurttemberg, Germany, who was a Lutheran nun from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Maria had been invited in 1911 to Thomasville by the hospital board of directors to help manage the hospital. After leaving the order, Maria and James Lloyd were married on April 15, 1913, in the First Presbyterian Church of Thomasville. The bride was given in marriage by James G. Watt, one of the local officials who had invited her to help with the hospital. Later known as Miss Marie or Miss Pat to local people, she accompanied her husband to the turpentine camps in Florida and continued her nursing there, answering calls at all hours of the day or night. After she and James Lloyd returned to live in Thomasville permanently, she resumed her work there and was honored in 1955 for being a nurse for 50 years. She died on April 21, 1971.

James Lloyd and Maria had three daughters, the eldest, Frieda Marie, born on April 25, 1914, at the Thomasville City Hospital. She is married to Harold H. Spangle and lives in Thomasville today. The second

daughter, Katherine Barbara, was born on October 7, 1919, at the Lapham-Patterson House, the only grandchild of the Pattersons to be born at the homeplace. She is now Mrs. Katherine Moore of Valdosta, Georgia.

The third daughter was named "James Gould" Patterson at her birth on July 23, 1923, at Six Mile Pond or Woodville, a turpentine camp in Leon County, Florida, 20 miles from Tallahassee. It was considered to be unusual at that time for the wife to accompany her husband to a turpentine camp, and of course it was even more unusual to be there for the birth of a child. Today, "Jimmie" is married to Bernard Lanigan and lives in Thomasville. She and her two sisters have children of their own.⁸

Thomas Alexander Patterson

Thomas Alexander Patterson, the second son and third child of James G. and Mary Patterson, was born on November 11, 1882. He joined his father in the turpentine business at an early age, and their firm in Thomas County was known as Patterson and Son.

On August 10, 1909, Tom married Vela Elise Foster at the home of her brother in Union Point, Greene County, Georgia. Vela was the daughter of Dr. Harrison Foster and Stella Lou Robinson Foster of Augusta. Vela and Tom had met in Ochlocknee.

The couple spent their first year or so of married life at his parents' home, their room being the guest bedroom above the parlor. They then moved to Stemper (now Lutz), Hillsboro County, Florida, near Tampa, for about a year to manage one of the turpentine camps at that location. They returned to Thomasville and purchased the house across Webster Street from his parents, where they lived at 704 North Dawson Street until his death on October 10, 1930.

Following the death of his father, Tom took charge of the family

turpentine camp in Thomas County and kept the books and operated the commissary. A Mason like his father, Tom had a Masonic burial at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Thomasville. Having left the town in the 1930s, his widow died on March 25, 1976, and was buried in Augusta.

Tom and Vela Patterson adopted their first child, Laura Elise, who had been born August 26, 1913, but the child died the following year on June 16. Later, the couple had four children of their own -- Millie Foster, born on March 29, 1917, married to George Duckworth and a resident of Golden, near Denver, Colorado; Stella Mary, born June 2, 1918, married to Dr. Robert M. Whitley and a resident of Rocky Mount, North Carolina; Eva Carina, born September 7, 1919, married to Loy N. Carver and a resident of Decatur, Georgia; and Thomas Samuel, born March 24, 1922, not married, who resides with his sister and her husband in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. All three daughters have children and grandchildren of their own.⁹

Leila Patterson Edwards

Leila Gould Patterson, the eldest daughter of James G. and Mary Patterson, was born on November 10, 1884. Now living in Quitman, Georgia, she moved to Thomas County with her parents shortly after 1900.

Leila met Leroy Bond Edwards, whose family lived near Mullins, South Carolina, while visiting an aunt there, and the two were married at the family home in Thomasville on October 5, 1913. [See the appendix.] They lived in Wilmington, North Carolina, and Mullins before they returned to Thomasville around 1933, when they moved into the Patterson family home, then owned jointly by the heirs. For a few years, the couple occupied the downstairs bedroom wing, with their son Roy having the

upstairs guest room over the parlor.

A Methodist, Edwards was a banker until his retirement, whereupon he returned to Thomasville and was a farmer until his death. Leila and Roy had three children, one of whom died at birth. The other two are: Mary Patterson, born in 1915 in Wilmington, North Carolina, and Leroy B. Edwards, Jr., born in 1919 in Mullins, South Carolina. Mary is now married to William C. Walden and lives in Swainsboro, Georgia. She was christened in the family home in 1916. Leroy is married to the former Sarah Martha Zeigler and lives in Thomasville, where he is a real-estate agent and president of the Thomas County Historical Society. Both Mary Pat and Roy have children of their own.¹⁰

Clyde Patterson Fleming

Clyde Kirkland Patterson, the second eldest daughter born to James and Mary, was born on July 4, 1888, and died September 3, 1952. In 1906, at age 21, she was graduated from Young's Female College. She also attended Andrew College in Cuthbert, Georgia. In 1909, she married Eugene Madison Fleming in Thomasville, a native of Waycross who had grown up in Thomasville. A railroad agent at the time of their marriage, he was a special agent with the Atlanta, Birmingham & Coast Railroad at retirement.

Over the years, the Flemings lived in Fitzgerald and Douglas, Georgia, before returning to Thomasville around 1934. At that time, they moved into the Patterson homeplace with their three children and occupied the second floor of the house. After living there for about two years, they moved to another residence in town. The couple are buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Thomasville, Clyde Kirkland having died on September 3, 1952, in Thomasville.

The Flemings had three children -- Eugene, Jr., James Thomas, and Margaret. Eugene, Jr., born on October 26, 1916, was christened in the Patterson homeplace; he is now an insurance agent in Macon, Georgia. His brother, James Thomas, was born March 1, 1918, in Thomasville and was living in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the time of his death on March 24, 1966. He is buried in Columbus, Georgia. Margaret Fleming was born July 11, 1920, in Thomasville and is married to Osgood F. Cook, Jr., of that city. All three of the Flemings' children have children of their own. 11

Alice Patterson Stevens

Alice Martha Patterson, born on June 29, 1890, resides in Savannah, Georgia, today with her daughter-in-law and three grandsons. When the family first moved to Thomasville in 1905, Alice attended school there at the local grammar school and then later attended Young's Female College until it was closed due to bankruptcy.

Alice Martha lived at home until her marriage at age 29 to William Whitfield Scarborough (born 1886), a native of Benton, Louisiana. They had met while William was in town as the local YMCA secretary.

World War I began during their courtship, and although engaged, they waited to be married until after he returned from serving in France. On their wedding day, August 14, 1919, they left by train for Washington, D.C. and New York City, and from the latter went by boat to the Panama Canal Zone, where he had been appointed secretary for one of the YMCA's there.

While in the Canal Zone, Scarborough was active in the Masons and Shriners, while Alice was a member of the Eastern Star. A Presbyterian

since the age of 12, when she joined the church, she continued in the faith of her ancestors.

The Scarboroughs loved to travel, and they saw much of the United States, as well as locales on the Caribbean, but they returned to Thomasville in 1937, due to William's health. At that time, Alice purchased from her siblings their shares in the family homeplace. Her husband died in Thomasville on October 12, 1941, and Alice continued to live in the home, often renting rooms while her son Bill was in college.

The Scarboroughs had two children, both born in Cristobal, Panama Canal Zone. William, Jr., born in 1920, was graduated in industrial management in 1942 from Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, and that same year entered the United States armed services, eventually serving in the Far East before returning to Georgia. He resided and worked in Savannah until his early death. His widow and three sons now live in Savannah. Mary Byrne Scarborough was born on October 19, 1921, and died of lung disease in Denver, Colorado, on September 8, 1935.

It was while Alice was living on Dawson Street after her husband's death that she met John Charles Stevens (born 1888), who was living with his wife next door at the Ball Apartments (the Hackett-Barnes House). Following his wife's death, he and Alice were married in 1965, when she was 75 years of age. Stevens, a native of Nashville, Tennessee, was retired from the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. The couple lived at his home in Chattahoochee, Florida, and enjoyed traveling occasionally until his death on June 3, 1973. Following this, Alice closed her home in Chattahoochee and moved to Savannah to live with her family there.

Alice Patterson Stevens, who contributed much information for this report, took piano lessons, an elective course while at Young's Female

College, once winning a \$5 gold piece for a performance. She has few hobbies, although she did enjoy tennis as a young woman and still loves to cultivate roses, azaleas and camellias. Her perseverance in the preservation of the family homestead has been one of the major achievements of her life. The home became hers when she bought out the interests of her siblings after her return to Thomasville, and she continued to own it until she sold the homeplace to the City of Thomasville in 1970.¹²

Samuel Bruce Patterson

Samuel Bruce Patterson, the youngest son of Mary and James G. Patterson, was born on June 25, 1892. After he quit school at the age of 17, he entered the turpentine business with his father and brothers, but following his father's stroke around 1914, he joined the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, where he became a conductor. Upon his retirement, he returned to Thomasville and became a farmer. Following his death in Thomasville on May 13, 1971, he was buried beside his first wife in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah.

Bruce was married three times. Bessie, his first wife, died May 22, 1932, at age 38 and is buried in Savannah. Elizabeth, his second wife, is buried in Thomasville. His widow, Ruby, lives in Thomasville today. His only child, by his first wife, Mary E., died on January 16, 1929, at the age of three and is buried beside her mother in Savannah.¹³

Mary Byrne Patterson

Mary Byrne Patterson, Mary and James' youngest child, was born on October 20, 1896. Moving with the family to the county at an early age, she attended the local grammar and high schools but contracted tuberculosis, from which she never recovered. She died on September 21, 1920, aged 23, and was buried in Thomasville. Her funeral, conducted in the parlor, was the first in the Patterson family to be held in the house.¹⁴

FOOTNOTES

Chapter 5The James G. Patterson Family

- 1 Her middle name is not given because the two known family Bibles in possession of her descendants do not agree on the name. The Bible dating to 1913 at the marriage of James Lloyd Patterson and Marie Fink lists her middle name as "Byrne;" that Bible record transcribed in the 1970s by Vela Foster Patterson, widow of Thomas A. Patterson (in possession of their daughter, Stella Mary Duckworth of Rocky Mount, N.C.) lists Mary's middle name as "Begoat." Mary's daughter, Alice P. Stevens of Savannah, told this author that the name sounded like "Becoat," supporting the latter Bible. Other sources of information include: Smith Family Bible in possession of Mrs. Milford J. Auger of Burlington, N.C., for dates of birth and marriage; and death certificate of Mary B. Patterson, Thomas County, Ga., State File No. 22625, Vital Records Unit, Georgia Department of Human Resources.
- 2 U.S. Census of Columbus County, N.C., for 1850, p. 228-A, family #119-121.
- 3 Smith Family Bible (see above); Smith Family History by Mrs. Louise Covington.
- 4 Ibid., and interview with Alice P. Stevens of Savannah, Ga., May of 1977.
- 5 Smith Family Bible; U.S. Census of 1900, Columbus County, N.C., which lists Mary Patterson and the children, giving month and year of birth; inscriptions, Laurel Hill Cemetery, Thomasville, Ga.; and interview, Alice P. Stevens, May of 1977.
- 6 Interview with Alice P. Stevens of Savannah in May of 1977; and Eva Patterson Carver and Stella Mary Patterson Whitley in Atlanta (grand-daughters of Mary Patterson), August-September of 1977.
- 7 Ibid; Death certificate of Mary B. Patterson, above; and her obituary, Thomasville Times-Enterprise, August 26, 1929, p. 5.
- 8 Interviews with the daughters of James Lloyd Patterson, Mrs. Bernard Lanigan and Mrs. Frieda Spangle; grandsons John Lanigan and Carl Kirkley. The J.L. Patterson Family Bible in possession of Carl Kirkley of East Point, Ga.; taped interviews with James Lloyd Patterson ca. 1970, as transcribed by John Lanigan, 1977. Obituary of James Lloyd Patterson, The Thomasville Times-Enterprise, September 15, 1970, p. 8, c. 4, and Marie Fink Patterson, April 22, 1971, p. 14, c. 2, and other clippings supplied by the family.
- 9 Interviews with the daughters of Thomas A. Patterson, Mrs. Eva Carver of Decatur, Ga., and Mrs. Stella Whitely of Rocky Mount, N.C.; family

Bible in possession of Mrs. Stella Whitely; obituary of Thomas A. Patterson, The Thomasville Times-Enterprise, October 10, 1930, p. 5.

- 10 Telephone interview with Leila P. Edwards during the summer of 1977, and interviews taped in September of 1977 by her son, Leroy B. Edwards, Jr. Interviews with her two children, summer, 1977, with the author.
- 11 Telephone interview with Clyde P. Fleming's daughter, Margaret Fleming of Thomasville; her obituary in The Thomasville Times-Enterprise of September 4, 1952, p. 4, c. 3.
- 12 Interviews with Alice Patterson Stevens in the spring and summer of 1977, including a visit during June of 1977. Obituary of her daughter in The Thomasville Times-Enterprise of September 9, 1935, p. 5, c. 2, and her first husband in the October 13, 1941, issue, p. 7, c. 2; and tombstone inscriptions in the family plot, Laurel Hill Cemetery, Thomasville, Ga.
- 13 Information concerning Samuel Bruce Patterson from interviews with Alice P. Stevens and Leila P. Edwards, as well as his various neices; and cemetery records, Bonaventure Cemetery, Savannah, Ga.
- 14 Interviews with her sister, Alice P. Stevens, and her obituary in The Thomasville Times-Enterprise of September 23, 1920, p. 5.

Chapter 6

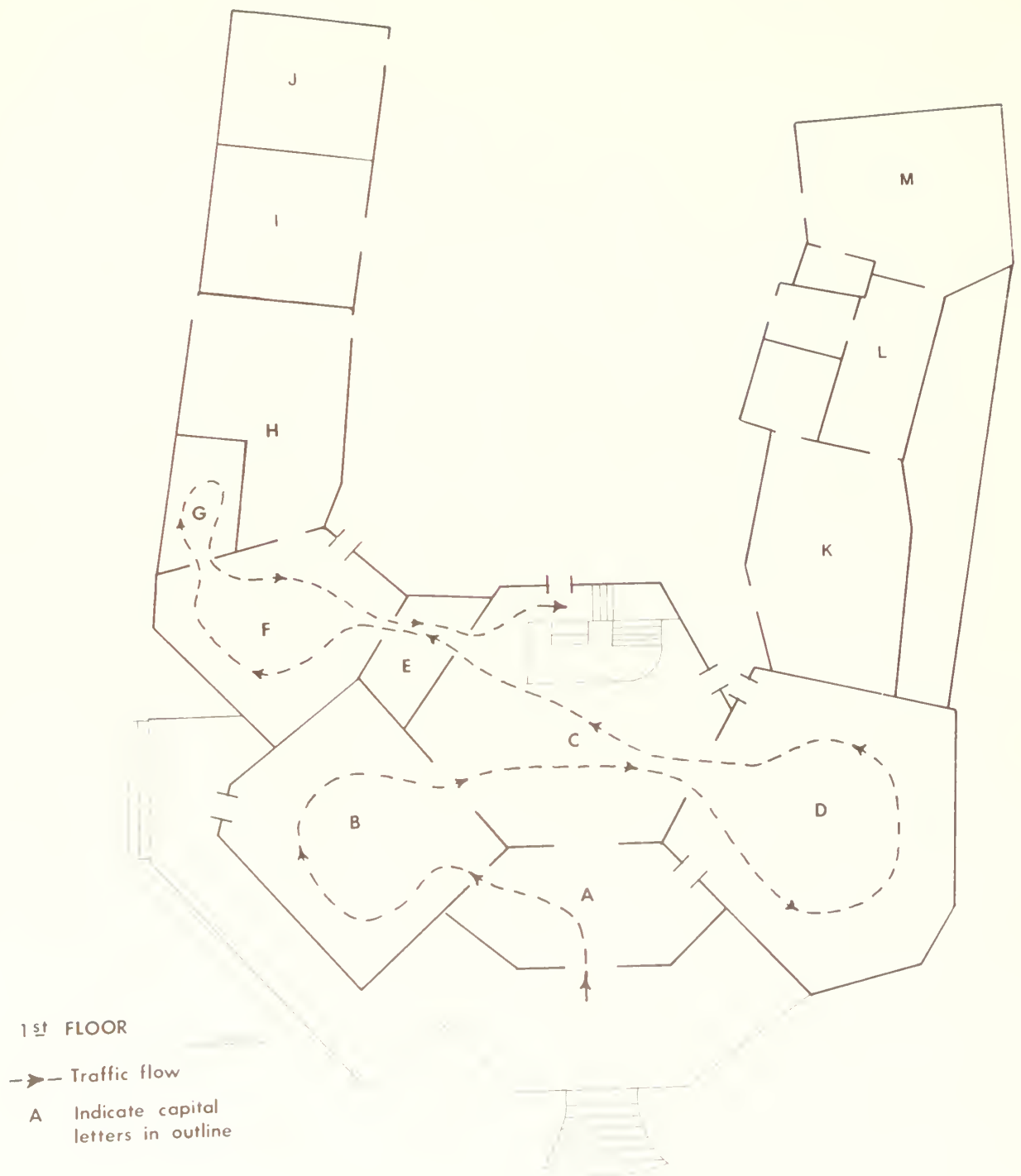
THE HOUSE AND ITS USE DURING THE PATTERSON YEARS

When the Pattersons purchased the house in 1905, it was fully furnished. Apparently Harriet Larmon, the previous owner, had felt that the furniture and art work there were not appropriate for her mansion in Cincinnati, and thus sold the house furnished. She left, as well, many of the ceramic vases and oil paintings that she had produced herself. Mrs. Patterson added to the furnishings, bringing some items by train from North Carolina.

Upon entering the house from the front door, one enters a small foyer or front hall with doors leading (from left to right) into the sitting room or library, the dining room, and the parlor. The front hall was furnished with a small "deacon's bench," fern stand, and a cane chair.

The sitting room, which was also known as the living room or library, was used by the children to entertain their guests when they were dating, and also by Mr. and Mrs. Patterson for informal entertaining. In general, this sitting room was much like a modern-day "family room." The family books were kept here, and Patterson had a desk in this room, in which he kept deeds and other important papers. A Christmas tree was placed here for the holidays. In the 1930s, the funeral of Mary B. Scarborough, daughter of Alice Patterson Scarborough, was held in this room rather than in the parlor, where other funeral services had been conducted.

The dining room was located in the center of the house, much like



Floor Plan of the Lapham-Patterson House

the great hall of an English country home. The room was furnished with a table that could seat 12 persons, at which Mr. and Mrs. Patterson would sit at either end with the children on either side. A stove in one corner of the room heated it, as well as the bedrooms upstairs.

The site of most family meals, this room was used for receptions following the weddings and christenings held in the house. Dances held by the Patterson children also centered in this room, with the doors on either end being opened, thus making the sitting room, this room, and the parlor into one large room. The stairway-balcony in the dining room was used by the grandchildren for "shows" they put on for their own amusement.

The parlor, to the right of the dining room, was considered to be the most formal room in the house, having a "fancy" or "show" window in it. Here, the bridal couples stood for the wedding ceremony, in front of the window or in the doorway between the parlor and the dining room, and funerals were also held here, with the casket being placed in front of the window. The piano in this room, used during the Pattersons' occupancy, remains there today.

The wing or ell to the right of the parlor was the bedroom wing. When the family moved into the home in 1905, the room adjacent to the parlor became Mr. and Mrs. Patterson's bedroom. The middle room was a dressing room with a bathroom, a novelty later to the grandchildren. The "back room," as it was called, served originally as a bedroom for the younger sons, Tom and Bruce. After the sons grew up and married, and following their father's stroke, it became Mrs. Patterson's bedroom.

A porch where firewood was kept for the bedroom fireplaces is on the right side of the wing. This wing was later occupied, following Mrs.

Patterson's death, by her daughter, Leila P. Edwards, and more recently by the site's curators and members of their families.

Another wing or ell is on the Webster Street side of the house. In it (from the back of the house to the front) were the laundry room (J), the wood room (I), the storage room (H), the pantry (G), and the hallway-partial pantry (E), connecting into the dining room (C). [See illustration.] After his stroke, ca. 1914, Mr. Patterson had the laundry room and wood room converted into a screened porch, and his youngest daughter, Mary Byrne Patterson, who had tuberculosis, also used the porch during her illness. He often invited workers from the local turpentine camp onto the porch to talk with him, where there was a swing, a few chairs, and several hanging baskets filled with plants. After the State of Georgia acquired the house, the porch was converted to the two original rooms.

Patterson converted the storage room into an office and breakfast room, from which he paid his workers after he could no longer journey to the local turpentine still. Originally, the only entrance into the storage room (which first contained storage cabinets and the ice box) was from the kitchen. The door on Webster Street was then only a passageway leading from that side of the house into the inner courtyard, but Patterson incorporated this passageway into his newly-created office. Following his death, the grandchildren ate breakfast in this room with their grandmother.

A large pantry opens off the kitchen, its only entrance being from this room. A wood-burning stove which could also utilize coal, and a hot-water tank stood in the kitchen. The earliest tank used oil to operate. Alice Scarborough had a gas stove installed around 1937 when she

became the sole owner of the house.

The Second Floor

The second floor contained all of the bedrooms, as well as the storage areas and bathrooms. The room (H) on the left or Webster Street side was called Dolla's Room, after the name carved in it on a bracket on the wall. Although no one knew this at the time, "Dolla" was the nickname of Lapham's elder daughter, Lydia Portia, who died at the house in 1886. Dolla's Room was used by the Pattersons for the storage of linens, blankets, and other related items. During the Patterson years, it was never used as a bedroom.

The next room (C) served as the bedroom for the Patterson's eldest son, James Lloyd, from 1905 at least until his marriage in 1913. His daughter "Kitty" was born here in 1919, due to James G. Patterson's insistence that his grandchildren be born under his roof. Despite his "decree," however, she was the only grandchild born in the house.

The other bedrooms (D, E and F) were considered to be two rooms by Mrs. Patterson, since in her will she referred to bedrooms D and E as "the Middle Room" and bedroom F as the "Guest" or "Company Room." When the grandmothers or other guests were staying with the family, they were normally accommodated in the farthest bedroom (F) on the right, and family members had to "double up" in the other rooms. Since the Pattersons had numerous relatives who visited, with the grandmothers alone usually spending four to six months there each year, it seems a reasonable presumption that "doubling up" was required a great deal of the time. The boys were often away at the turpentine camps and the daughters were away

at school, so it would be impossible to determine which rooms were used by whom on any regular basis.

When Tom Patterson married the former Vela Foster in 1909, they had as their room the "Guest Room" (F) with the small balcony. They resided in the house for only a year or so, however, before they moved to Florida, where they lived at the turpentine camp.

One bathroom is on the second floor. It existed when the Pattersons arrived.

The Third Floor

On this floor, there is one large room which leads out to a balcony over the front porch. Considered "forbidden territory" not only to the Pattersons' children but also to their grandchildren, local tradition passed on to the Pattersons was that during the Lapham era it had been a billiard room or a place for dances, with the orchestra being situated on the dais at the far end. The Pattersons used the room for the storage of blankets and the like. Since the stairway was steep and there was no railing, it was considered dangerous for the grandchildren to be running up and down; but they did so often, incurring their grandmother's admonishments for their behavior.

Furnishings

At her death in 1929, Mary Patterson specifically willed items of furniture to each child, detailing usually from which room they came. This list is included in the appendix of this report.

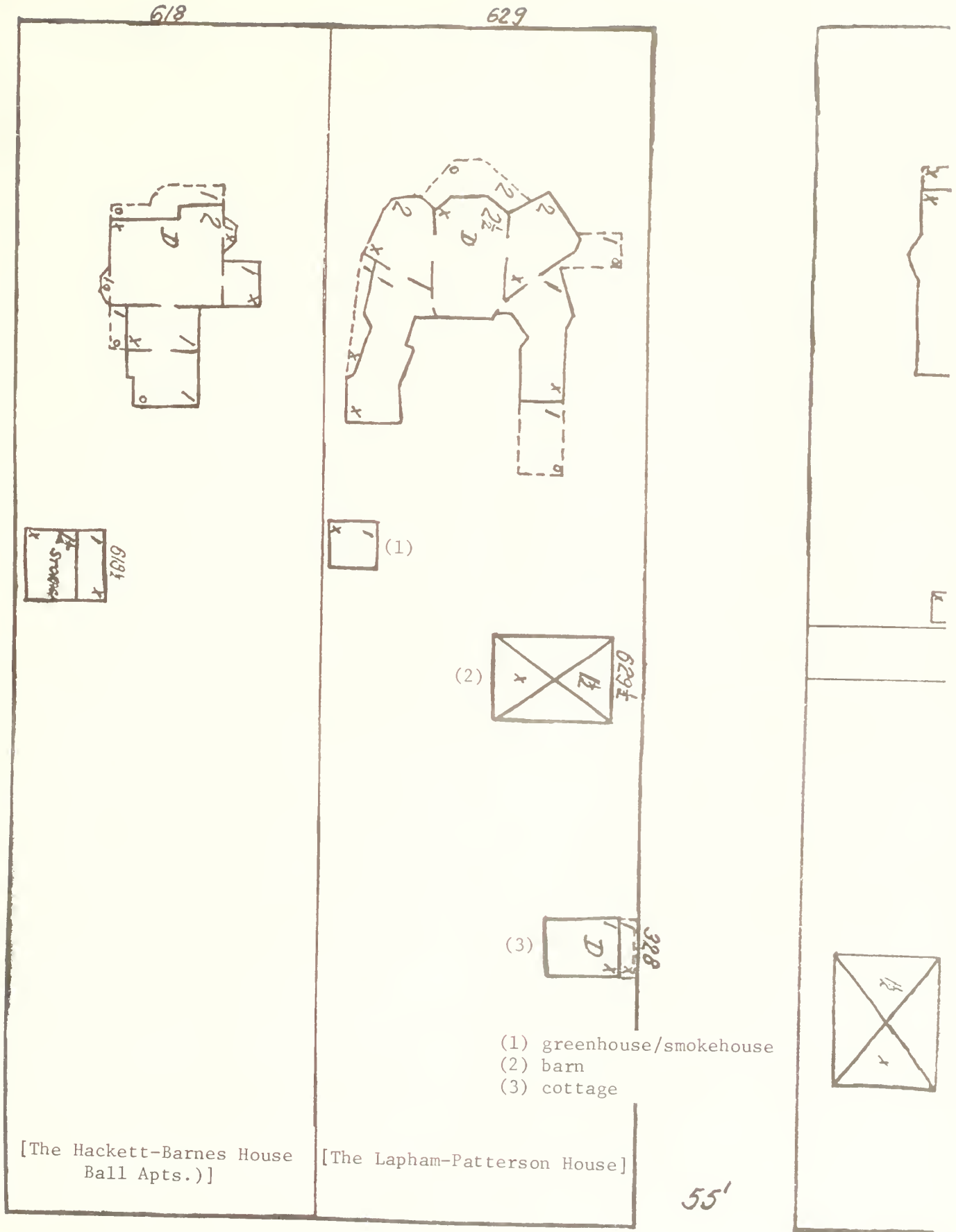
The Outbuildings

A number of outbuildings existed on the property when the Pattersons arrived in 1905, only one of which remains today. The 1885 bird's-eye-view map of Thomasville shows a windmill in the backyard, which was probably used to draw water from the well, and a barn. In 1905, the property included a barn, cottage, bird house-aviary, well, brick building (which was then a greenhouse), and a chicken coop.

The barn, facing Webster Street, had sliding doors, a ground floor where the horses and carriages were kept, and some small rooms in the back, in which were probably kept the "gear" and other carriage-related items. Another door existed on the house side and a stairway in the center leading to the hayloft. The hay, as in most barns, was hauled to the loft by a pulley that went out over the front doors through a window. Once inside, the hay was dropped to the horses from the loft. Shingled, with a gable roof, the barn was in existence until the 1930s, when Alice Patterson Scarborough had it dismantled and sold to a real-estate developer. It was a favorite playing spot for the grandchildren, who recall smoking "rabbit tobacco" in the hayloft.

The cottage was a small, one-floor house with three rooms and a "privy" in the back. When the Pattersons arrived, Mrs. Larmon's Negro caretaker, who was residing in the cottage, was replaced by a servant couple who had traveled with them from North Carolina, "Uncle Alonzo" and "Aunt Grace." Later, a man who took care of Mr. Patterson following his stroke lived there in order to be nearby. The cottage was torn down after Mary Patterson's death.

The bird house or aviary appears to have been a vestige of Lapham's day, but it is unlikely that this is his famous "enclosure" where he



placed the deer to be used in Pleasure Park, because the structure that existed there in 1905 was about eight feet high and about four feet wide. It had a gabled roof, with openings for birds to fly in and out, rather than being able to contain them. Mirrors were also a part of this structure, for the birds to "see themselves." A three-part window, similar to one on the second floor of the house, was incorporated into the design as well. The building was not used by the Pattersons, and it eventually deteriorated and was removed.

The well, which was sealed by the Pattersons, was not used while they were in residence. It is located behind the greenhouse or brick building.

The brick building, immediately to the north of the bedroom ell of the house, is the only outbuilding still in existence. A greenhouse or hot house with a glass roof in 1905, Patterson converted it into a meat house or smokehouse so that produce from his farm could be brought in and kept for the family's use. Later, Alice Patterson converted it into a garage, which it remains today.

The chicken coop was at the very back of the property on Young Street, and here, Mrs. Patterson kept her chickens. It was eventually taken down after Alice Patterson Scarborough assumed ownership of the house.

The Grounds

It is difficult to determine what condition the grounds were in when the Pattersons arrived in 1905. The front yard was planted in grass until Mr. Patterson planted two magnolia trees, which are still there,

and this ended the coverage of grass in the yard. When grass had grown there, a push-type lawnmower had been used to keep it trimmed. A fountain, only the base of which remains, stood in the front yard. Originally, the fountain had water pouring from a bird's beak and flowing back onto its wings. Goldfish were in the fountain pool at least into the 1920s, but azaleas later replaced the fountain's interior. The bird disappeared and may have been stolen. A rose arbor once existed on the east side of the house, adjacent to the Ball Apartments.

In the back of the house, a brick walk, which has been restored, ran from the barn into the courtyard and passed the doors of the laundry room, wood room, and hallway. Opening onto the courtyard, it ended at the back doors of the house. Another cross-walk connected the two ells of the house.

A garden, tended by one of the servants, was located at the back of the lot, bordering Young Street, behind the cottage. A vegetable garden, it produced beans, cabbage, collards, lettuce, and spinach, as well as other vegetables.

On the portecochere, or Webster Street side, a swing and a hitching post for the horses existed.

Exterior Changes to the House

Through the years, the house has undergone few structural alterations, the major ones being the conversion of the laundry room and wood room into a screened porch and then their conversion back into the original rooms. The house has been painted several times, Patterson first painting it white and then later a canary yellow, although not the bright

yellow it is today. After Alice Scarborough purchased the house in 1937, she had it painted white again.

The roof has been replaced at least twice. During Alice's ownership, she had a roof added in the 1940s to replace or cover the earlier redwood shingles which were on top of a tin roof.

Alice also had the front porch remodeled, the front steps converted from wood to concrete and the paneled column bases altered. These changes, carried out by W.W. Brewton (who was, coincidentally, a great grandfather of the present curator), reverted to their original condition after the State of Georgia began restoration of the house.

Interior Changes to the House

During the 1972 archaeological investigation of the house, a tank was uncovered which indicated that the house was lighted by gas from this tank, buried in the backyard. Shortly after the Pattersons moved in, perhaps as early as 1905, the house was fitted for electricity. It also possessed wood-burning stoves and fireplaces, all of which were kept in working order until the 1930s.

The house is known to have been damaged by fire only once, around 1940, when a fire was lit in the large fireplace in the dining room. This fire damaged the ceiling of the third floor, and the house was repaired by Mr. Brewton.

This chapter was compiled from information gathered in interviews primarily with Alice P. Stevens of Savannah and also with other descendants of the Pattersons.

Chapter 7

EVENTS AT THE HOME DURING THE PATTERSON YEARS

From the fall of 1905, when the James G. Patterson family arrived, the long-neglected home on North Dawson Street came alive. The large house, with its many nooks and crannies and large yard had enjoyed only seasonal use during its first 20 years of existence. Having served as a winter cottage for the Laphams, it continued in that capacity during the Larmon ownership. Although the Laphams had visited every season, the Larmons came infrequently to their winter home.

The arrival of the Pattersons with their seven children, who ranged in age from nine to 24, was quite a contrast to the smaller families who had lived there previously and who had much younger children than the Pattersons. The home now became a year-round residence rather than a seasonal cottage, the purpose for which it had been built.

A Typical Day

A "typical" day at the house began with an early rising by family members, whether they were going to school, the turpentine camps, or elsewhere. Breakfast was served at 7 o'clock in the dining room, and after breakfast, the younger children left for school, while Patterson and his older sons left for the local turpentine camp. The daughters who were no longer in school would then go horseback riding or perhaps played a game of tennis, and they made many visits with friends in surrounding communities such as Tallahassee, Valdosta, Quitman, Albany, and Bainbridge.

The Pattersons had a cook who served three hot meals a day, a sumptuous dinner being served at noon in the dining room and an equally large supper being enjoyed in the evening. Following supper, when Mr. Patterson had returned from his business activities, family members would occupy some of their time with reading. Their father often read the Bible and the many newspapers to which he subscribed, especially the one published in Savannah which quoted turpentine prices. The family also owned a Victrola which might be played in the evening.

Black servants took care of the more physically-demanding chores around the house, which included cleaning the porches, tending the garden, caring for the horses, the carriages, and the chickens. A servant couple known as "Uncle Alonzo" and "Aunt Grace" had come with Mrs. Patterson and the children in 1901 to Thomas County from North Carolina, and after the Pattersons moved to town, they lived in the cottage in back of the house. When they died, their bodies were taken to North Carolina for burial with their relatives. Other servants included Charles, who still lives in Thomasville, and Ernest, both of whom cared for Mr. Patterson after his stroke.

Other chores around the house, such as bringing in firewood, were the duties of the boys in the family. Mrs. Patterson did not think it proper for young women to work or do chores; therefore, her daughters did not build fires, cook, wash clothes, or perform any other chores while living at home. Since working was not allowed, the daughters spent their days, when not at school, being courted, shopping, visiting friends and relatives, roller-skating on the town's rink, playing tennis, or horseback riding.

Education

Education occupied a great deal of the younger children's time. Upon their arrival in Georgia, they had lived in the country and had a private tutor, Ruby Stevens, who lived with the family for about two years. Once in town, they attended the local city schools, both the grammar and high schools, and later, for the girls, Young's Female College. The elder sons, James Lloyd and Thomas Alexander, attended Stanley's Business College in Thomasville, and at least one of the daughters furthered her education in another town.

Special Days

Many special days were celebrated each year in the Patterson home. Some occurred on a regular basis, such as birthdays, while others were more unique events, such as weddings and christenings.

For birthdays, the celebrating child would enjoy a special meal in his or her honor, to which they could invite a friend. After the meal, they might attend a "silent" movie.

Among the unique events which were held in the house were the christenings, weddings, and funerals of family members. The dual christening of two grandchildren was an event well-remembered. Mary Patterson Edwards (daughter of Leila Patterson), born in 1915, and Eugene Madison Fleming, Jr. (son of Clyde Patterson), born in 1916, were both christened in the parlor on the same day in 1916. The minister came to the house for the occasion, probably in deference to Mr. Patterson's recent stroke, and after the service, wine made by the proud grandmother was served in the dining room.

The weddings of three of the Pattersons' daughters, Clyde, Leila, and Alice, took place in the house in 1909, 1913, and 1919, respectively. The wedding ceremony of Alice Patterson and W.W. Scarborough in 1919 was held in the parlor, with the couple standing in the doorway between the parlor and the dining room. She wore a suit for the ceremony, since the war had just ended and she and her husband were planning to leave immediately for a brief honeymoon en route to the Panama Canal Zone. Her sisters had worn long gowns at their earlier weddings. During the ceremony, the guests were seated and music was played. At all three of the home weddings, receptions were held in the dining room, with punch and chicken salad being served, but not champagne. [A full description of the latter two weddings appears in the appendix of this report.]

The funerals of family members were also held in the house. Services for the Pattersons' youngest daughter, Mary Byrne, who died in 1920, were held in the parlor, the same room used for the funerals of Mr. and Mrs. Patterson in 1926 and 1929, respectively. The funeral of Mary B. Scarborough, daughter of Alice Patterson Scarborough, was held in the sitting room in 1935. Later, in 1941, the parlor was again used for the funeral of W.W. Scarborough, Sr., Alice's husband.

Holidays

Most of today's holidays were also celebrated by the Pattersons, and in much the same way as they are celebrated today. On St. Valentine's Day, the children exchanged cards with friends, usually in person rather than by mail. For April Fool's Day, they played practical jokes on people. At Easter, a large meal would be served, and an Easter egg

hunt would then ensue, with someone being the "Easter Bunny."

During the summer months, July Fourth was the only holiday, but for this celebration, the family would gather for picnics at favorite spots, one of which was the Ochlocknee River sand pits. Speeches, always a tradition on this patriotic occasion, could be heard at the courthouse, as well as at Paradise Park, where a bandstand was located.

To celebrate Halloween, the Pattersons would invite the YMCA boys down to their house for a visit, during which games would be played, such as bobbing for apples in a water-filled tub. Candy would be made as well, including divinity, chocolate fudge, and taffy.

By Thanksgiving Day, the grandmothers would have arrived for their annual visit, Mr. Patterson's mother coming from South Carolina and Mrs. Patterson's from North Carolina. They journeyed together by train for their visit, usually accompanied by one of their children, until 1908, when James' mother died. After that time, Mrs. Smith, Mary's mother, came alone until her own death in 1915.

When the family gathered for this holiday, the traditionally large Thanksgiving dinner was served, and after the meal, the family would often ride about Thomasville, pointing out sights in the town to visitors. Mr. Patterson had less business to attend to at this time because of the seasonal nature of the turpentine industry, and thus he had more time to spend with visiting family members. Thanksgiving was second only to Christmas as the biggest event of the year for the Patterson family.

At Christmas, a holly tree would be cut and brought in from their farm in the county, near the turpentine camp. Holly and pine branches were used to decorate the house, as well as mistletoe being hung from the chandeliers and bamboo being strung on the staircase in the dining

room. On the Christmas tree placed in the sitting room, the decorations consisted of popcorn and cranberries strung together to make garlands. No electric lights or candles were used on the tree, due to the danger of fire that a dried-out tree would have presented.

The Pattersons made their own Christmas cards and usually exchanged these with friends when they visited, rather than mailing them. The main Christmas meal would be a turkey dinner, a bird being used which had been grown on the Patterson farm.

Holly wreaths were made from holly picked on the farm, as well. A large wreath was not placed on the front door, but rather two smaller wreaths were placed in the windows of the adjoining rooms, the sitting room and the parlor. There would be one wreath for each room, the one in the parlor being placed in the "fancy" window.

For gifts, the Pattersons would buy some items and make others. Mr. Patterson, who wore bow ties, often received a store-bought tie from his family, and his daughters or wife might make him a scarf. Mrs. Patterson would often make socks for the children. Whether a gift was homemade or bought in a store, however, depended on the family's ability at the time. If an item could be made, it was. As new items became available that were not within the "homemaking" powers of the family members, these would be purchased.

Vacations

During July or August, the Pattersons would journey by train to North Carolina's Wrightsville Beach near their old home of Whiteville and Mr. Patterson's home of Loris, South Carolina. They remained about

a month, exchanging visits with relatives living in the area.

Other Activities at the House

With seven children aged nine to 24 in 1905, the Pattersons led an eventful life at home. The older daughters and sons were courting, and the YMCA boys were frequent visitors. During one of these visits, Alice met her future husband, who was the local YMCA secretary. If the daughters left the house with a suitor, a chaperone was required, and while they were courting, Mrs. Patterson would not let them accept any gifts, with the exception of flowers and candy, until they were engaged.

Young couples went for outings to sugar-cane grindings and picnics out the Ochlocknee Road to the family's turpentine camp or to the Dawes Silica Mining Company, a sand pit along the Ochlocknee River. Games were often played at the house, such as croquet, which was played between the barn and the main house. Tennis was played on a neighbor's court or at the YMCA, and the boys enjoyed swimming and hunting and had a bird-dog. As mentioned before, Mr. Patterson did not hunt.

The older children held dances on the main floor of the house, opening up all three rooms -- the parlor, dining room, and sitting room -- to make the main floor a ballroom. The third floor was not used for parties. At other times, the Pattersons might attend silent movies or plays at the opera house in town.

The family had the use of horse-drawn or motorized travel, and they kept carriages and horses for the family's use. Mr. Patterson also had a surrey "with a fringe on top," but rarely if ever did he ride horseback in his later years. The children did ride horseback, keeping their horses either in the barn located on the property or out at the

turpentine camp. Two of these horses, named Beauty and Prince, were favorites with the children.

The Pattersons had three automobiles during Mr. Patterson's lifetime. Although he did not drive himself, he did purchase a Rambler to use in his business trips, while he provided his daughters Alice and Mary with a Maxwell and his sons with a Rio.

Although the family members bought many items from the local Thomasville stores, they often ordered items elsewhere. Purchases were frequently obtained from New York, Savannah, and places in North Carolina.

The James G. Patterson family, while living at 626 North Dawson Street, appear to have led a life similar to many people during their era. They were a large family with a good income and a large home. The parents also held many beliefs which reflected their upbringing during the Victorian Era which had recently ended. These factors, as well as others, make them a representative study of an upper-middle-class, urban Georgia family and its activities at home during the early 20th Century.

This chapter was compiled from information gathered in interviews primarily with Alice P. Stevens of Savannah and also with other descendants of the Pattersons.

THE ERA

Chapter 1

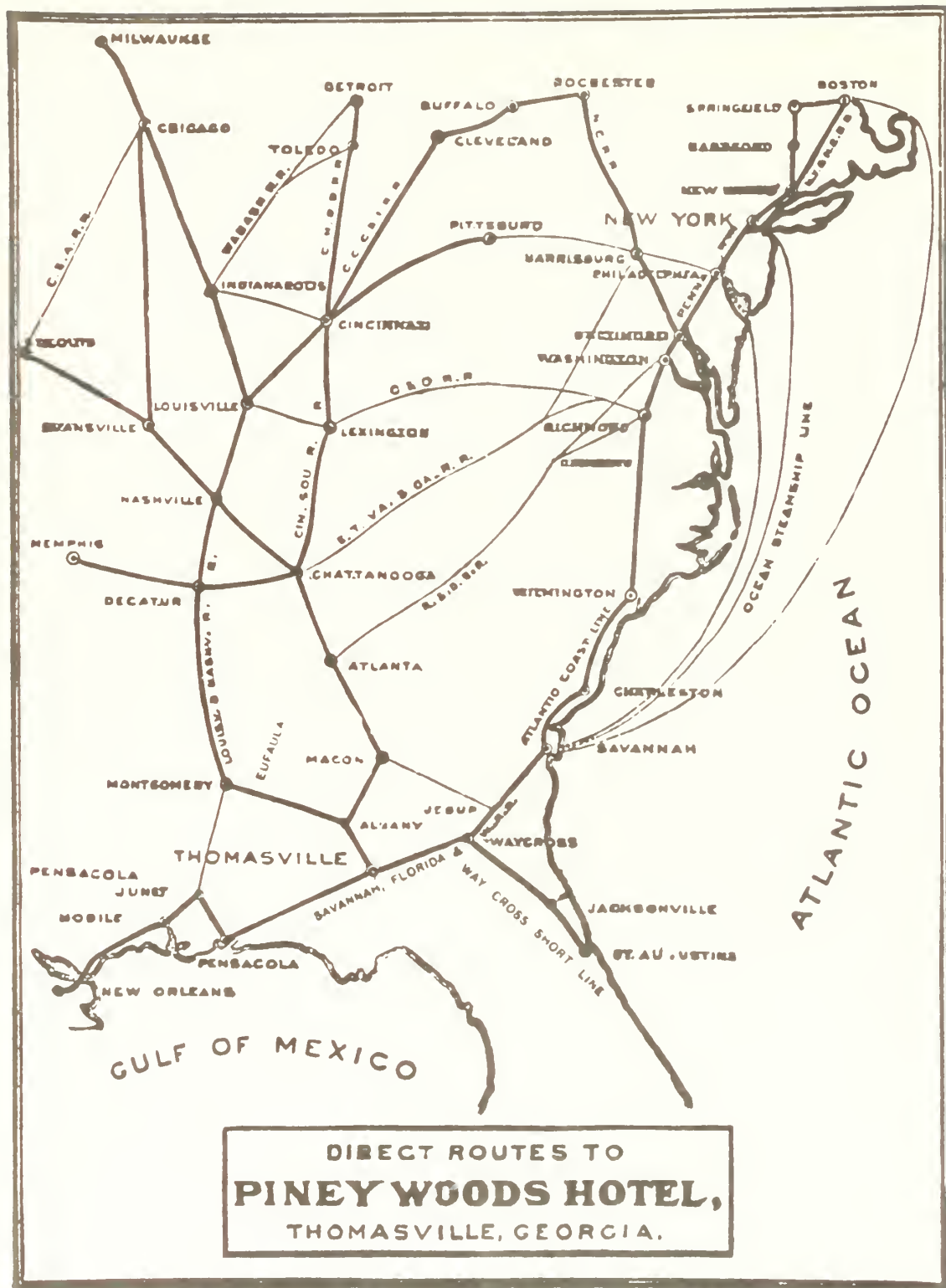
THOMASVILLE AS A WINTER RESORT

(ca. 1876 - Present)

It was not by chance that Charles Lapham, James Larmon, and many other Northerners found Thomasville in the late 19th Century. The city and county had been renowned as a health resort since the early 1870s,¹ and during its "heyday," much was done to publicize its accessibility, its health-promoting climate, and its pleasures. Its decline as a resort can be attributed to several factors, including the emergence of Florida as a resort, the discovery that it was the mosquito which caused malaria rather than low, swampy lands, as had been feared, and Thomasville's own deterrent to entertainment -- the institution of Prohibition in 1899.²

Thomasville's rise as a resort was similar to that of many cities across the nation. Although many Southern towns, like those in what was then Virginia (now West Virginia), had been resorts in the antebellum period, Thomasville's emergence was due to a new surge of resort-seekers, who sought resorts for two reasons. First, many persons then, as now, just wanted "to get away from it all." E.L. Youmans, editor of Popular Science Monthly in 1885, called them a virtual migrant class of people who were "well-to-do, leisurely, and healthy," and who sought a change of climate purely for personal enjoyment. Once they had satisfied their quest for amusement, pleasure, gaiety, and "whatever can make the time pass pleasantly," he said, they would become bored and move on to another location.³

The second type of resort-seeker, Youmans explained, was the person



who sought a change of climate for reasons of health.⁴ Although this search might seem today to have been a random selection process, it was actually a very well-organized "search" on the part of the invalid. Dr. Bushrod Washington James, writing in 1889 in American Resorts; with notes upon their climate, indicated that a resort was chosen according to the type of ailment the patient suffered from.⁵ Youmans had described his own visit to his doctor, who told him to go away for relief of his illness but did not specify a particular resort. Patients such as Youmans then turned to Dr. James' detailed, disease-by-disease approach, which described which resorts were best suited to certain diseases. His work, not a handy pocket-guide for travel purposes, due to its size, was certainly a definitive study for its day.

James advised that a person seek a resort that

not only possess[es] a climate suitable to the physical needs of the patient, but such conditions, in the way of scenery, amusements, diversions, and congenial surroundings, as will act favorably upon his mind.⁶

He mentioned Thomasville as the place to visit for pulmonary phthisis, or tuberculosis, or an otherwise "wasting away" of the body.⁷ It was believed that the best remedy for this condition, which was quite prevalent in that era, was an atmosphere free from dust, smoke, and germs, the atmosphere needing to be clear or transparent and dry.⁸ Dr. James recommended other winter resorts which could also be useful to persons with this condition, mainly in the West and Southwest, including California, Texas and Arizona, as well as further east in Florida.⁹ Wherever the patient chose to go, James felt they should "remain, if not permanently, which is the best plan as a rule, at least until his health is well

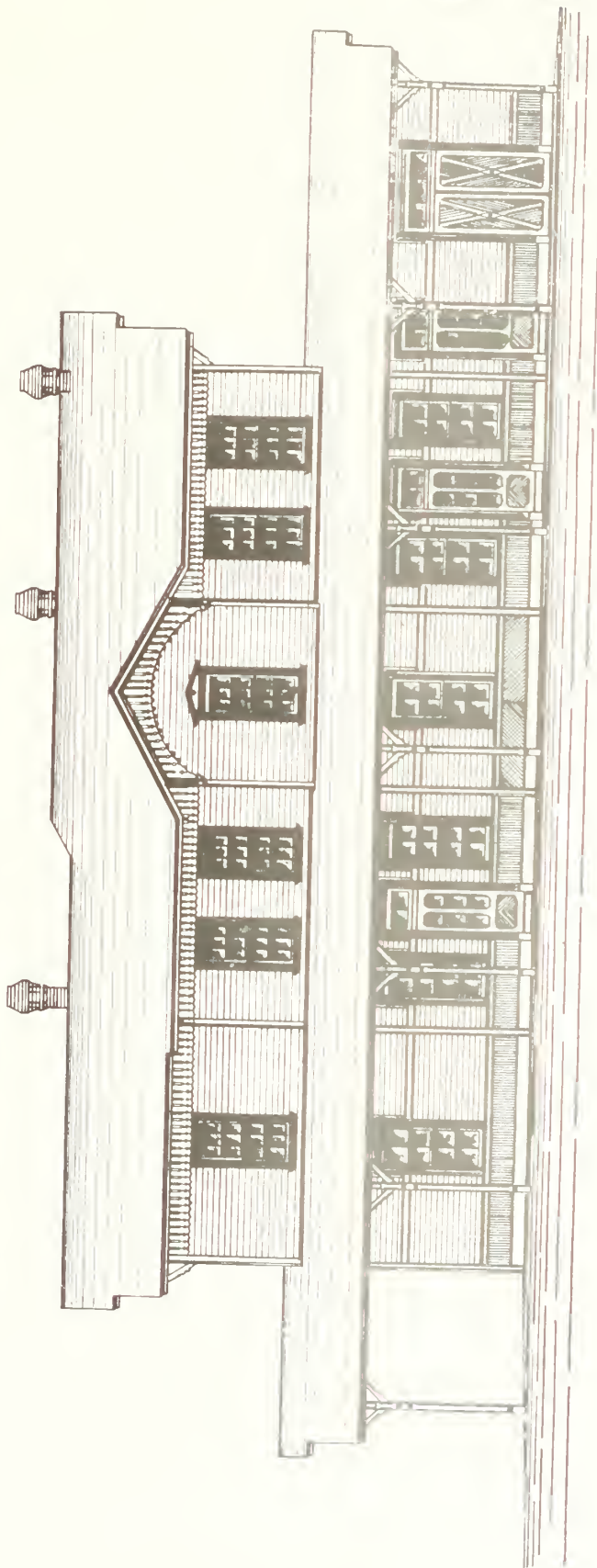
established."¹⁰

The American resort-seeker was epitomized by Charles Lapham, who was an invalid by his own admission and was certainly a pleasure-seeker, as evidenced by his desire to enhance that aspect of life in Thomasville. [His efforts in this area are discussed in this paper in his biography with its sections on the opera house and Pleasure Park.]

Like other Victorians, Lapham and others followed the leaders, and resort-seeking became popular because it was the sport of royalty and presidents, as well as the wealthy. One has only to read the accounts of the life of Queen Victoria and the novels, magazine articles, and other publications of the day to realize that the preoccupation of much of Western civilization in the 19th Century was health and, therefore, health resorts. Victoria herself was always escaping her imperial quarters in London, Windsor, Balmoral, Osborne --- the four corners of the island she ruled --- for the continent. Ostensibly, she visited her relatives, but she always managed to spend some time at one or another of the fashionable resorts. The American presidents after the War Between the States were fond of resorts, and that obviously came to the attention of those persons who were always following popular trends.¹¹

Thomasville attained national recognition due in great part to publicity it received from national periodicals, as well as its own self-publicity. Always a winter resort, as opposed to those places that were summer and seaside resorts, Thomasville was never in competition with the other types of resorts. Winter resorts were in a class of their own, and it was a leader among them for pulmonary troubles.

Although several earlier guides to health resorts were published in the 1870s,¹² none mentioned Thomasville, as it had not yet been



NORTH ELEVATION

SF & WANDERSBY

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER

STATION AT

THOMASVILLE, GA.

SAVANNAH GA JUNE 1885

Garth

1885

CHIEF ENGINEER

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

NO. 300

Thomasville Depot, built 1885-86 (now demolished)

"discovered" as a winter resort. In 1879, a writer for Harper's New Monthly Magazine, published in New York, discussed the best "Climates for Invalids" and concluded that the best places for pulmonary complaints were those where the temperatures for day and night only differed by a few degrees.¹³ The writer felt that many invalids were also suffering from overwork and anxiety, and that besides the "change of air," change of place and habits was just as important -- and probably more so -- in helping them regain their health. Southern California was the only place, in his estimation, where someone with pulmonary troubles could actually show physical improvement. The other resorts, he said, were good only for temporary relief.¹⁴

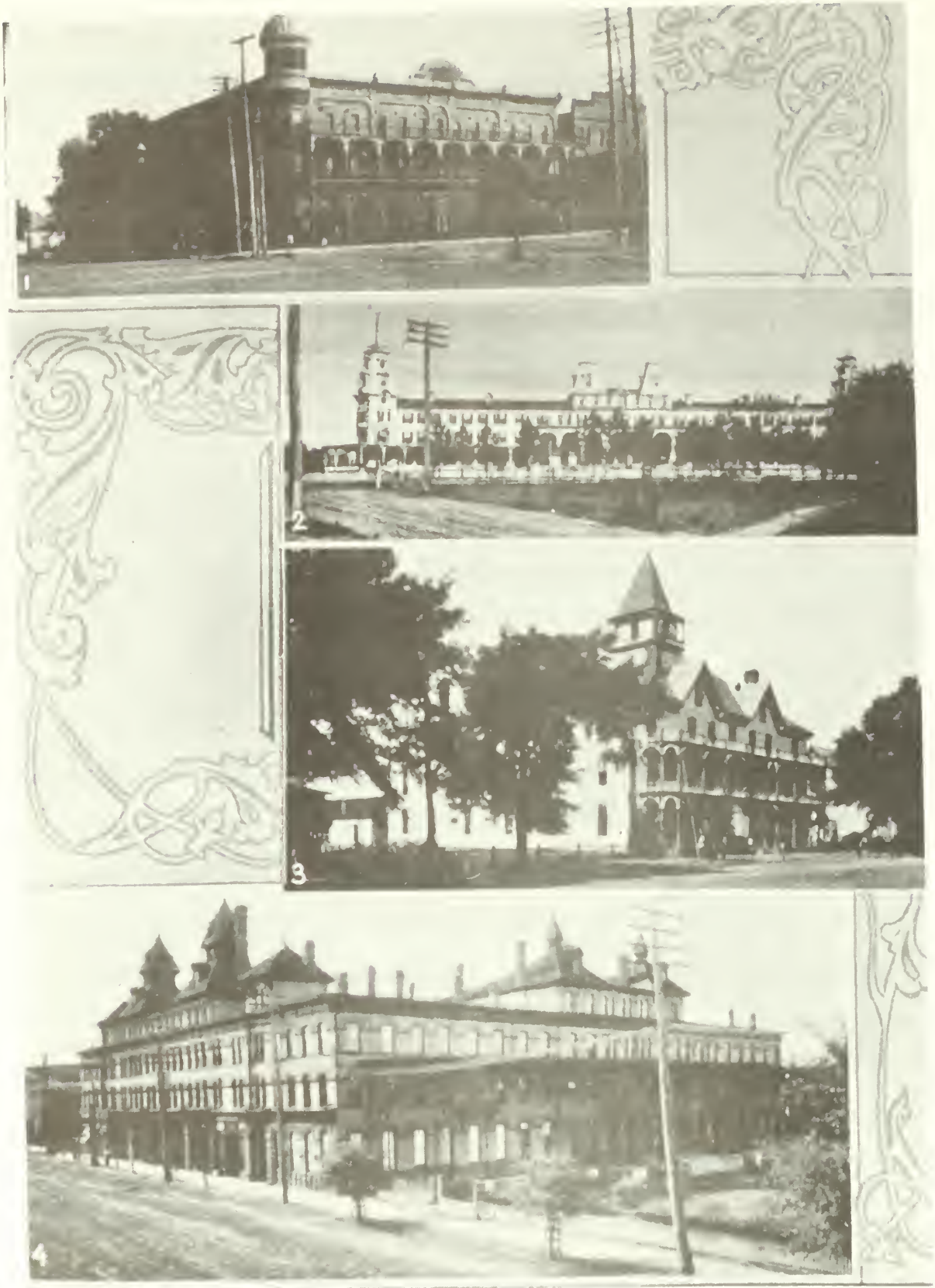
Youmans, writing in 1885, visited Thomasville after he "consulted the books on American winter sanitary resorts," since his physician had not recommended a specific resort. He explained in his article why he chose Thomasville, saying that he had eliminated Florida because of the low-lying lands, which he and others at that time felt were the breeding grounds for malaria. Finally, he concluded that Thomasville met the needs of his "lungs [which were] badly out of order."¹⁵

Upon arriving in Thomasville, Youmans learned that a survey of county doctors, taken in 1873-74 by Dr. T.S. Hopkins, father of Thomasville Mayor H.W. Hopkins, documented the number of cases of "consumption" in "the district." Finding that only three cases had occurred in 1873, Youmans concluded that something "in the air" must have been beneficial to have decreased the rise of this malady. As he said: "A climate in which the disease so rarely occurs is certainly worthy of a trial by those who have it." Although Youmans was not cured (as the 1879 writer indicated no one would be), he did credit Thomasville with

"saving my life," since he felt that New York would have caused his death.¹⁶

Youmans, who was quite aware of the other type of resort-seeker -- the "hedonistic" pleasure-seeker -- criticized the town for its lack of recreational facilities, as did Lapham. Although he pointed out that the good livery stables allowed for horseback and carriage-riding, he felt that these entertainments were for the wealthy. His own interests caused him to notice the lack of a bowling alley, gymnasium (to combat the "evils" of idleness), and enough library books. One of his "entertainments" was observing the black residents "in their habitat," supposedly leading to his better understanding of conditions between the races.¹⁷

As Thomasville's fame grew, so did its publicity. By 1887, when another Harper's article was published concerned with resorts, Thomasville was specifically mentioned. The article's title, "The Winter Climatic Resorts of Three Continents," indicated the fine company which the town "in the piney woods" had been placed among. William Smith Brown, the author, spotlighted places all over the globe, beginning with the Nile in Africa and progressing westward. Concerning the United States, Brown stressed that persons with pulmonary troubles should not take long train trips to California, since these trips might harm the individual more than the disease to be cured. He said he felt invalids should seek resorts convenient to them. After mentioning three Southern summer resorts -- Asheville, North Carolina; Aiken, South Carolina, and the Sand Hills near Augusta, Georgia (as a place with more city life nearby) -- he turned to Thomasville.¹⁸ His brief comments on the town were that it was:



Hotels in Thomasville (top to bottom): Masury, Piney Woods, Stuart, Mitchell House (c. 1904)

... deserving of careful consideration. Located in the pine belt region, and accessible by railroad, it is at present, one of the most desirable localities to be found for a warm and dry air. It is comparatively free from high winds in winter [one of the disadvantages he pointed out in other Southern resorts], and also from the humidity of many portions of the peninsula of Florida.

Coupling Thomasville with nearby Quincy and Tallahassee, Florida, he said that the three offered the "better climactic conditions ... from December to April" than "few locations on the mainland."¹⁹

The key qualities Brown felt important in this Georgia-Florida region were the open air that invalids could enjoy and also the fact that they could easily dress accordingly to meet the changes in temperature. The accommodations and "sanitary" arrangements were other important features that Thomasville possessed, he said. In conclusion, Brown said he felt that the overall conditions were more favorable to a person's health than anywhere else on the mainland. Considering the national audience of this magazine, this rating of Thomasville above other Southern winter resorts should have been a promotional advertisement for the town and certainly should have boosted its patronage.²⁰

Thomasville was not the only Georgia city mentioned in the 1889 publication of Dr. Bushrod James' American Resorts, noted earlier for its detailed assistance to the invalid seeking a resort. He cited Augusta (the Sand Hills) as a place for similar pulmonary relief, and Savannah and Brunswick were also included as coastal relief spots.²¹ Although this point is not mentioned, it is also apparent that Thomasville's relative isolation, as compared with the other three cities, combined the need for relief from health problems and the need to "get away from it all."

By the 1890s, Thomasville had begun its own campaign. The local newspaper editor published, on behalf of the city, the first illustrative promotional booklet in 1888. This booklet was revised slightly each time it was reprinted or reissued, in 1891, 1899, and 1904. The booklet for the Piney Woods Hotel was published in 1886,²² and one on the Mitchell House appeared ca. 1887. Although helpful to the seasonal traveler in learning more about the town, these booklets were obviously aimed at enticing many of these visitors to become permanent residents of the community.

In their 1891 edition, the city leaders stressed their town's freedom from the scourge of yellow fever and malaria. This fact alone, they claimed, made it a mecca for many who dreaded these diseases.²³ The cause of these diseases, the mosquito, was unknown at this time, however.

The language of the promotional booklet often approached the poetical, the city's soil and water supply being described thusly and the latter being "clear streams, whose limpid waters make silvery music"²⁴ as they headed towards the Gulf of Mexico. The price of land for farming was said to be between two and ten dollars an acre, depending upon location.²⁵ The writers boasted that the abundance of fruit-growing possibilities, especially the LeConte pear, made it a "fine opening here for some capitalists to establish factories for preparing this fruit...."²⁶ The booklet also described the city's sanitary conditions, churches and educational facilities. Included were those for the "colored race," and a school fund for the poor, which was being divided pro rata between the races.²⁷

The booklet highlighted the potential for amusements in the town, beginning with the drives in and around town and the opera house. The

hotels and their ability to accommodate the Northern visitors were, of course, a major part of the enticement to the resort-seeker. The first Mitchell House Hotel, opened in October of 1876, charging \$20 a month for board in 1879, but it burned in August of 1883, just as business for the town was booming. Thomasville had already made plans for a second hotel by this time to cope with the influx of visitors.²⁸

The second Mitchell House, begun in May of 1884, opened in February of 1886 and charged \$4 a day and \$25 a week in its most prosperous time. The Piney Woods Hotel, which was to accommodate 300 persons, was begun in September of 1883 while the ashes of the first Mitchell House were still smoldering. Opened in January of 1885, its fame and reputation grew, and at this hotel's peak, a special rail car took passengers back to New York City from Thomasville.²⁹

The third local luxury hotel, the Masury, was begun in November of 1887 and opened in January of 1889. Initially built with 80 rooms, it was joined eventually by the adjacent Brighton, itself possessing 150 rooms.³⁰ The town also had several smaller hotels and a number of boarding houses, but fire was the major scourge of these, as well as the larger hotels. The tourist market was good for several decades, and their owners often tore down and rebuilt their buildings, even changing the names -- anything to entice the tourist.

Thomasville's eagerness to have these Northern visitors is apparent in the promotional booklet. The town leaders were ready and willing to make fine accommodations available, as well as to promote the idea that the visitor had as much freedom in Thomasville as anywhere in the North, and that everyone had a friend in Thomasville. They explained that the real-estate market was sound; racial relations were at least discussed

in the booklet; and one section, entitled "Social Status," covered religion and politics and assured the visitor of the freedom of expression.³¹

The town leaders succeeded in luring Northerners to their area for several decades. Some of the greats and near greats of American politics, industry, and society came to this town as short-term visitors, perennials, or permanent land-owners. Descendants of many of these visitors continued to come as long as their families owned property in Thomasville, and some are permanent residents today.

On the political scene, the most noted events were the arrivals in 1895 and 1899 of William McKinley, both before and after he was elected President in 1896 and 1900. He was the guest of United States Senator and Cleveland financier Mark Hanna of Ohio, who leased the Masury House on Dawson Street, only a few blocks north of the Lapham House. McKinley laid strategy for his first Presidential campaign while on this visit.³²

Industrialists such as John W. Masury of Masury Paints of New York City, who also wrote on house-painting, not only owned the home on Dawson Street (rented by Hanna) but also built a plantation, "Cleveland Park," out from town, in 1887-88. Although Masury died in 1895, only a few years after discovering Thomasville, his descendants continued to come to the plantation until it burned in the 1930s. A granddaughter still has a winter home in town today.³³

From Philadelphia came Justus Strawbridge and A.H. Mason. Family members of the former are still involved with the Strawbridge & Clothier department stores in that city,³⁴ and Mason's became permanent residents of Thomasville and today own "Susina" Plantation in nearby Grady County (formerly Thomas County).³⁵

Many prominent social figures also visited Thomasville during this

period. From Chicago came the editor of The Chicago Tribune and Potter Palmer, owner of the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago, where Charles Lapham had his shoe store. From New York came figures such as Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Roosevelt, parents of Eleanor Roosevelt, Elliot Roosevelt being a brother of Theodore Roosevelt.³⁶

Many visitors stayed for the entire season, from December until April, when the hotels were open, and most of their activities took place in and around the hotels. As Lapham and the above-mentioned writers stressed, the town needed more amusements, and the town leaders took note. During the height of its popularity, Thomasville added an opera house, a new park, and a golf course, as well as the organization of a hunting club led by Henry W. Hopkins, the local judge, mayor, and realtor. While some of the Northern visitors preferred isolation, many of them socialized with the local people, and the composition of the committees formed to work on Pleasure Park indicate the close cooperation in civic affairs between the permanent citizen and the Northern visitor.³⁷

By the 20th Century, Thomasville's era as a health resort was waning. The town had instituted Prohibition in 1898, to begin January 1, 1899,³⁸ following a trend that culminated in the 18th Amendment to the Constitution in 1919. The discovery by the early 1900s that malaria and yellow fever were caused by the mosquito, and not by low-lying land, came as Florida was being popularized by the railroad magnates Plant and Flagler.³⁹ Its variety of beaches and amusements drained Thomasville of many of its visitors.

The periodicals that had once promoted Thomasville now began to turn to Florida as the new place to visit. Written in 1902, Edward

Lowry's article in Munsey's Magazine featured the state as the "American Riviera," although it did dwell on Thomasville at length, mentioning Senator Hanna and even including a picture taken during the McKinley visit. But he styled Thomasville as "the most staid and reserved of the winter colonies" and devoted his attention instead to the hunting that was pursued there and the golf club, which he featured in an illustration.⁴⁰ The burning of the Piney Woods Hotel in 1907 effectively ended the resort era in Thomasville, and it was never feasible to rebuild the hotel.⁴¹

By 1910, accounts related to wintering in the South did not even mention Thomasville while praising Florida, "the great mecca of fashion and wealth."⁴² Another Georgia resort for the wealthy which succeeded in luring some Northerners away from Thomasville, Jekyll Island had also boomed in the late 19th Century. This resort afforded those Northerners seeking privacy and a comfortable Southern climate more seclusion there than in Thomasville where they would have to mingle, at least partially, with the local people. On Jekyll, the Northerners, who owned the entire island, built a clubhouse, as well as private homes. They directed their own activities in relative isolation from the townspeople of Brunswick.

Thomasville today has many legacies from its resort era. The great plantations that surround the city are primarily owned and operated by descendants of the families who came to the town during its "heyday," and the money invested by these families over several generations has been a great factor in the economy of the region. Other reminders of the "golden era" also exist. The Mitchell House is now converted into a department store; Paradise Park, which once fronted on the Piney Woods Hotel and all its grandeur, now resembles most city parks; the Pleasure

Park envisioned by Lapham, for several years a joint project of the local people and the visitors, is now a golf course; and the Hanna-McKinley House, a home that saw so much that was Thomasville in its day, is up for sale.

Other homes are now seeing their revival as a new generation seeks to restore some of the beauty of the by-gone day of Thomasville's resort era. The Lapham-Patterson House is such a place. Still virtually intact and restored to its debut in 1885, it is perhaps the most obvious reminder, as a State museum, of the quarter of a century ago when Thomasville "Among the Pines" was at its peak.

FOOTNOTES

Chapter 1Thomasville as a Winter Resort

- 1 W.W. Rogers, Thomas County, 1865-1900, pp. 131-35.
- 2 Ibid., p. 437.
- 3 E.L. Youmans, "Thomasville as a Winter Resort," Popular Science Monthly, XXVIII, December, 1885, pp. 188-91. Also: Dr. William Burke, The Virginia Mineral Springs (Richmond, Va.: 1853), and Dr. John J. Moorman, The Virginia Springs (Richmond, Va.: 1857).
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Dr. Bushrod W. James, American Resorts; with notes upon their climate (Philadelphia: F.A. Davis, 1889), p. 157ff.
- 6 Ibid., p. 21.
- 7 Ibid., pp. 148, 164.
- 8 Ibid., p. 159.
- 9 Ibid., pp. 162-65.
- 10 Ibid., p. 165.
- 11 For Queen Victoria's activities, any of the published biographies on her substantiate her incessant travels; for the American presidents, see Cleveland Amory, The Last Resorts (New York: Harper & Bros., 1952: originally published earlier), p. 20.
- 12 John B. Bachelder, Popular Resorts, and How to Reach Them (Boston: published by the author, 1874).
- 13 "Climates for Invalids," an unsigned article in Harper's New Monthly Magazine, Vol. 58, No. 346, March, 1879, p. 585.
- 14 Ibid., p. 588, c. 2.
- 15 Youmans, op. cit., p. 189.
- 16 Ibid., p. 190. Also: John Triplett, comp., Thomasville (Among the Pines) and Thomas County, Georgia (Thomasville, Ga.: The Times-Enterprise, 1891; reprinted 1967), pp. 30, 31 for the Dr. T.S. Hopkins report in its entirety.
- 17 Youmans, op. cit., pp. 190-91.

- 18 William S. Brown, "The Winter Climatic Resorts of Three Continents," Harper's New Monthly Magazine, Vol. 75, No. 450, November, 1887, pp. 874-76.
- 19 Ibid., p. 875.
- 20 Ibid.
- 21 James, op. cit., pp. 148, 164.
- 22 Collections of the Thomas County Historical Society include reprints, originals, and/or Xerox copies of these booklets. The one on the Piney Woods Hotel has also been reprinted, as has the general one for 1891.
- 23 Triplett, op. cit., p. 1.
- 24 Ibid., p. 5.
- 25 Ibid.
- 26 Ibid., p. 7.
- 27 In passim and p. 13.
- 28 Rogers, op. cit., pp. 137, 140-41.
- 29 Ibid., pp. 142-43, 145.
- 30 Ibid., p. 150.
- 31 Triplett, op. cit., pp. 19-20, 41-42.
- 32 Rogers, op. cit., pp. 331-44.
- 33 Ibid., p. 150. See Masury biography, The National Cyclopedia of American Biography, Vol. V, pp. 155-56. Telephone interview with Mrs. Edith Sturgis O'Connor, granddaughter of J.W. Masury, of Remsenburg, New York, March 14, 1977, by the author.
- 34 Amendment to the Thomasville Historic District National Register Nomination, located in the files of the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. This amendment contains research done on the Strawbridge-Disston-Mobley House by Martha F. Norwood of the Historic Preservation Section.
- 35 Susina Plantation National Register Nomination, located in the files of the Historic Preservation Section. Also: interview with the owners (the Mason descendants) by R.M. Willett, curator of the Lapham-Patterson House, 1974-77.
- 36 Notes from the files of James W. Gribben, III, of Thomasville. Also:

The Thomasville Times, March 28, 1885, p. 3, c. 5, and March 26, 1887, p. 3, c. 4 (for the Roosevelts).

37 Rogers, op. cit., pp. 298-330.

38 Ibid., p. 437 (for Prohibition).

39 Walter Reed discovered that yellow fever was transmitted by the mosquito when he was sent by the government to Cuba in 1900 (see Encyclopedia of American History, pp. 707-08). Dr. Leon J. Warshaw, Malaria: The Biography of a Killer (New York: Rinehart & Co., 1949), on p. 90 discusses the discovery that the mosquito was the transmitter of malaria on August 20, 1897, by Dr. Ronald Ross, an Englishman, in India. Because he worked for the government, his discovery was not made known immediately. On page 93, his frustrations are mentioned. When his discovery was made known to the world is not completely clear, but he did win the 1902 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his work (p. 114). C.H. Claudy, "Winter Vacations in Dixie and the Antilles," Country Life in America, Vol. 17, No. 3, January, 1910; and Katherine G. Busbey, Home Life in America (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1910), pp. 321-28, chapter on "Summer and Winter Resorts."

40 Edward A. Lowry, "Winter Colonies in the South," Munsey's Magazine, Vol. 28, No. 3, December, 1902, pp. 327-30.

41 Rogers, op. cit., p. 147 (about the burning of the Piney Woods Hotel).

42 Claudy, "Winter Vacations in Dixie and the Antilles," and Busbey, Home Life in America.

43 Samuel M. Williams, "A Millionaires' Paradise," Munsey's Magazine, Vol. 30, No. 5, February, 1904.

Chapter 2

"THE SEASON" AT 626 NORTH DAWSON STREET

The Thomasville newspaper generally reported the comings and goings of the better-known winter visitors to the town, whether or not they had built their own homes there. But those who had their own homes had a greater likelihood of being mentioned in the press. The Laphams, like most of the Northerners who made Thomasville their winter home, were fairly consistent in their seasonal arrivals and departures, thus defining "the season" at 626 North Dawson Street.

The hotels set the pace for the season. Without the official opening of the hotels early in December, there could be no influx of visitors, since there would have been no place for many of them to stay. The other Northern visitors who had homes, however, rarely arrived earlier than the opening of the hotels. These seasonal citizens of Thomasville apparently did not want to come earlier, either due to their commitments in the North or their disinterest in the town except when all of their fellow Northerners would be there. With the closing of the hotels in the spring, the other winter residents left shortly thereafter.

The following chronology of the seasonal arrivals of the Lapham and Larmon families gives an idea of when they were in residence at the home on Dawson Street:

Winter, 1882-1883

Lapham indicated that this was his first season in Thomasville, although he had spent the previous decade at other resorts, many in the South.¹

Winter, 1883-1884

Lapham's presence this year is evidenced by his purchase of land in April of 1884 with a promise to "build in the fall."²

The Mitchell House Hotel burned in August of 1883, thus putting a damper on the arrival of a great influx of Northerners that season, and the rebuilt hotel did not open until February of 1886. The Piney Woods Hotel opened January 11, 1885.³

Winter, 1884-1885

Although one would have expected C.W. Lapham to have arrived to be with his builder in the early fall of this season, there is no evidence that this occurred. The newspaper is silent as to when he arrived, but it did announce his departure on May 28, 1885:

Mr. C.W. Lapham and family left for their summer home, Chicago, Ills. [sic] on Thursday. We wish the gentleman and his family a pleasant sojourn in the West and a safe return this fall to their winter home in Thomasville.⁴

Winter, 1885-1886

On December 5, 1885, the newspaper reported, "Thomasville welcomes Mr. C.W. Lapham and family to their Southern home."⁵ The Laphams, including his father, Joseph B. Lapham, were listed in Webb's Thomasville Directory, published in the spring of 1886.⁶

The Laphams ended this season on a tragic note. Their daughter, Lydia Portia, died on May 15, and thus they closed the winter season by accompanying her body for burial near Buffalo, New York.⁷

The Mitchell House Hotel had closed on April 15, and the Piney Woods Hotel closed its doors on April 27.⁸

Winter, 1886-1887

With the Piney Woods Hotel set to open formally on December 18,⁹ the December 11 issue of the Thomasville newspaper announced: "Mr. C.W. Lapham and family have returned. Their friends and neighbors are pleased to see them again in Thomasville."¹⁰ And on May 14, 1887, it mentioned their departure: "Mr. C.W. Lapham and family left after a winter sojourn in Thomasville, on Monday [May 9]. The pleasant family will be missed on Dawson St., where their elegant winter home is located."¹¹

Winter, 1887-1888

On December 3, 1887, the newspaper announced: "Mr. Joseph B. Lapham of Chicago, arrived yesterday morning. He will be followed later by his son, Mr. C.W. Lapham, and family."¹² Although the arrival of the latter was not mentioned in the press, it is known that he had arrived by January 12, 1888, when he paid his taxes.¹³

Dr. William W. Clarke of Chicago was also there as a guest in February of 1888.¹⁴

Lapham left early this season, reportedly due to ill health, around April 21.¹⁵

Winter, 1888-1889

Again, in November 24, 1888, the newspaper in Thomasville published the following comment, indicating that Lapham had written the editor to inform him: "Mr. C.W. Lapham of Chicago writes that he and his family will be here early next month."¹⁶ No later comment appeared to indicate that they had arrived.

On May 19, 1889, the newspaper reported that the house on Dawson Street was being painted, perhaps indicating that the Laphams were in the process of leaving, since they generally departed Thomasville around the middle or last of May each season.¹⁷

Winter, 1889-1890

This year, the Laphams notified the local railroad representative of their intentions on arriving:

They Are Coming

Mr. C.W. Lapham, writing to Mr. R.W. Gladding [ticket agent here for L & N RR.], says "Regarding our intended trip South this year, I think the family will go as early as Nov. 25th, and perhaps before, and there will be more in the party than last year. I hope the Monon Route will be able to run through cars from Chicago to Thomasville without change. Anything I can do in the way of advertising I will take pleasure in doing. Mr. Lapham expects to come down himself later in the season."¹⁸

Lapham paid city taxes in person on January 1, 1890, indicating his presence in town.¹⁹

Winter, 1890-1891

C.W. Lapham had obviously arrived for the season, as he paid taxes in person this year. This was usually done in December or January, but the records are undated.²⁰

Winter, 1891-1892

Lapham paid city taxes in person this year on December 21, 1891.

Winter, 1892-1893

City taxes were paid by Lapham this season on December 27, 1892.²²

Winter, 1893-1894

City taxes were paid on December 28, 1893, this time in Mrs. Lapham's name, indicating that perhaps her husband did not spend this season in Thomasville. Legally, however, the house was in her name, and all previous payments should have been made in her name.²³

Later Owners

In contrast to the Laphams' arrival in Thomasville for every winter season from 1882-1883 until their sale of the house in 1893-1894, the Larmons met with tragedy in their first season of full ownership, 1894-1895. Although it is known that the family visited Thomasville on some future occasion, Mrs. Larmon paid taxes through an agent thereafter, indicating she was probably not present for the early part of the ensuing seasons through 1900-1901. Then, in 1901-1902, she paid taxes without an agent, as well as for the following season, 1902-1903,²⁵ which coincided with the birth of Larmon Gandy, named for her family.²⁶

The Pattersons were local citizens and thus did not have any need for seasonal arrivals and departures.

FOOTNOTES

Chapter 2"The Season" at 626 North Dawson Street

- ¹ The Thomasville Times, April 14, 1888, p. 2, c. 4, 5.
- ² Ibid., April 5, 1884, p. 3, c. 6.
- ³ W.W. Rogers, Thomas County, 1865-1900, pp. 143, 146.
- ⁴ The Thomasville Times, May 30, 1885, p. 3, c. 1.
- ⁵ Ibid., December 5, 1885, p. 3, c. 1.
- ⁶ Webb's Directory (copy in possession of the Thomas County Historical Society); The Thomasville Times, February 27, 1886, p. 3, c. 2, indicates starting of the compilation of the directory.
- ⁷ The Thomasville Times, May 22, 1886, p. 3, c. 4, "Fell Asleep."
- ⁸ Ibid., April 17, 1886, p. 3, c. 3 (Mitchell House); and May 1, 1886, p. 3, c. 2 (Piney Woods).
- ⁹ Ibid., December 11, 1886, p. 3, c. 2.
- ¹⁰ Ibid., c. 6.
- ¹¹ Ibid., Saturday, May 14, 1887, p. 3, c. 2.
- ¹² Ibid., Saturday, December 3, 1887, p. 3, c. 4.
- ¹³ City of Thomasville Tax Digests (1885-1902) for 1887 (located at the Office of the City Clerk).
- ¹⁴ The Thomasville Times, February 25, 1888, p. 3, c. 7.
- ¹⁵ Ibid., April 21, 1888, p. 1, c. 4.
- ¹⁶ Ibid., November 24, 1888, p. 3, c. 2.
- ¹⁷ The Thomasville Times-Enterprise (Daily), May 19, 1889, p. 1, c. 2.
- ¹⁸ Ibid., October 6, 1889, p. 3, c. 3, "They Are Coming."
- ¹⁹ City of Thomasville Tax Digest for 1889 [see Appendix].
- ²⁰ Ibid., 1890.
- ²¹ Ibid., 1891.

²² Ibid., 1892.

²³ Ibid., 1893.

²⁴ Picture of M.L. Larmon, dated "March 25, 1896" [see illustration], in possession of T.C. Gandy of Thomasville, Ga.

²⁵ See City Tax Digest for 1902.

²⁶ Personal interview with T.C. Gandy and his sister, Mrs. Harry L. Hershey (Patti Gandy), both of Thomasville, Ga., January 26, 1977.

ARCHITECTURE AND THE VICTORIAN PERIOD

Chapter 1

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE LAPHAM-PATTERSON HOUSE

The Lapham-Patterson House, as has been shown in this report, was erected in Thomasville, Georgia, in the midst of a building boom which accompanied the town's increasing popularity as a winter resort. Charles Lapham and Tudor Rommerdall may have had a relationship similar to that observed by the author of The Rise of Silas Lapham, a book first published in 1885, the year the Lapham house was built.¹ The passages quoted below offer some insight into the process of building a home in the midst of the Victorian era, a process felt to be similar to that which produced the Lapham-Patterson House:

[Speaking of Silas Lapham] The ideas he had formed from the inspection of many new buildings which he had seen going up, and which he had a passion for looking into. He was confirmed in his ideas by a master builder...who told him that if he wanted to have a house in the style, that was the way to have it.

The beginnings of the process by which [Silas] Lapham escaped from the master builder and ended in the hands of an architect are so obscure that it would be almost impossible to trace them.

[In reaction to Silas Lapham's suggestions] The architect as able to conceal the shudder which they must have sent through him. He was skillful, as nearly all architects are, in playing upon that simple instrument, man.

[The architect counterproposed changes] 'I'm sure Mrs. Lapham would find it much pleasanter...and sketched his idea. Mrs. Lapham... [responded] 'Of Course.' [The architect continued to make suggestions, slowly indicating his own preferences over those of Mr. Lapham.]

Lapham looked helplessly at his wife, whose quicker apprehension had followed the architect's pencil with instant sympathy. "First Rate" she cried.

[Lapham responded] 'It'll be kind of odd won't it?'

'Well, I don't know' said the architect. 'Not so odd, I hope....'

He went on to plan the rest of the house, and he showed himself such a master in regard to all the practical details, that Mrs. Lapham began to feel a motherly affection for the young man.... [Lapham and the architect differ over the wood and paint to be used. Styles past and present are discussed.]

[Lapham] 'I thought that had gone out long ago' to which the architect replied 'Really beautiful things can't go out. They may disappear for a little while, but they must come back.'

After the architect had left, at 11 P.M., Lapham remarked to his wife 'Well,...I guess that fellow's fifty years behind, or ten years ahead.'

To which she replied [concerning the style] 'I don't know, I hated to ask. But he seemed to understand what he was talking about. I declare, he knows what a woman wants in a house better than she does herself.'

... [Lapham] respected a fellow who could beat him at every point ... and as he recovered from the daze into which the complete upheaval of all his preconceived notions had left him,... [swore]

[Lapham mused over how he had discovered the architect and owned him, but that although the architect was building other houses] ... he gave the Laphams the impression that he was doing none but theirs.²

Charles Lapham, whose home is the subject of this report, had much in common with the fictional Silas Lapham besides surnames. When he contracted with his own architect to construct his winter cottage, he also was securing assistance to further his own ideas about the type of home he wanted.

Victorians such as Charles Lapham considered themselves the beneficiaries of culture from past ages. Architects and builders, and perhaps the owners as well, studied the historical precedents of architecture in published accounts, as well as examples they had seen on their own travels. They selected elements of styles and combined these to create

a new architecture and a new art form known as eclecticism. As one Atlanta architect of the period, John Moser, said: "Every epoch of architectural history shall be represented by details from the best examples now obtainable." Of course, Moser and others did not plan to duplicate the details exactly, but to weave together the parts they liked best in order to create a new and different architecture.³

Architects and builders who were not able to travel and gather ideas from observing past achievements in person, such as Tudor Rommerdall, relied on pattern books and architectural journals. Some of these books which have recently been reprinted for the use of persons restoring Victorian houses and are good examples of what builders in the 1880s may have used are A.J. Bicknell's Detail, Cottage and Constructive Architecture (1873) and William T. Comstock's Modern Architectural Designs and Details (1881), both reprinted in 1975 as one volume. Also currently available is Palliser's New Cottage Homes and Details (1887), actually a combination of three earlier books.⁴

All of the above, as well as many others, were available to Charles Lapham and his architect. They had but to select details from these books or use them as inspiration for the creation of new forms.⁵ Among the distinct styles which emerged during this period of Victorian Eclecticism were those known as Eastlake, Stick, Shingle, and various revivals such as Second Empire, Classical, and Queen Anne.

The Queen Anne style, which arose in the midst of this new movement of eclecticism included many components and forms common to the era. It allowed a maximum of expression, the goal of most architects working with eclectic enthusiasm. Introduced at the Centennial Exposition of the United States held in Philadelphia in 1876, it became popular, even if



The Lapham-Patterson House as seen from North Dawson Street
(main entrance)



The Lapham-Patterson House as seen from the corner of Webster Street and Dawson Street.



The Lapham-Patterson House as seen from Webster Street



Close-up of the Lapham-Patterson House showing the multiple roof shapes, a major aspect of the Queen Anne style of architecture.



The Lapham-Patterson House dining room and stairway which winds between the chimney flues.



The middle room (two bedrooms) of the Lapham-Patterson House
second floor, facing Dawson Street.



The third floor room of the Lapham-Patterson House, facing Dawson Street.

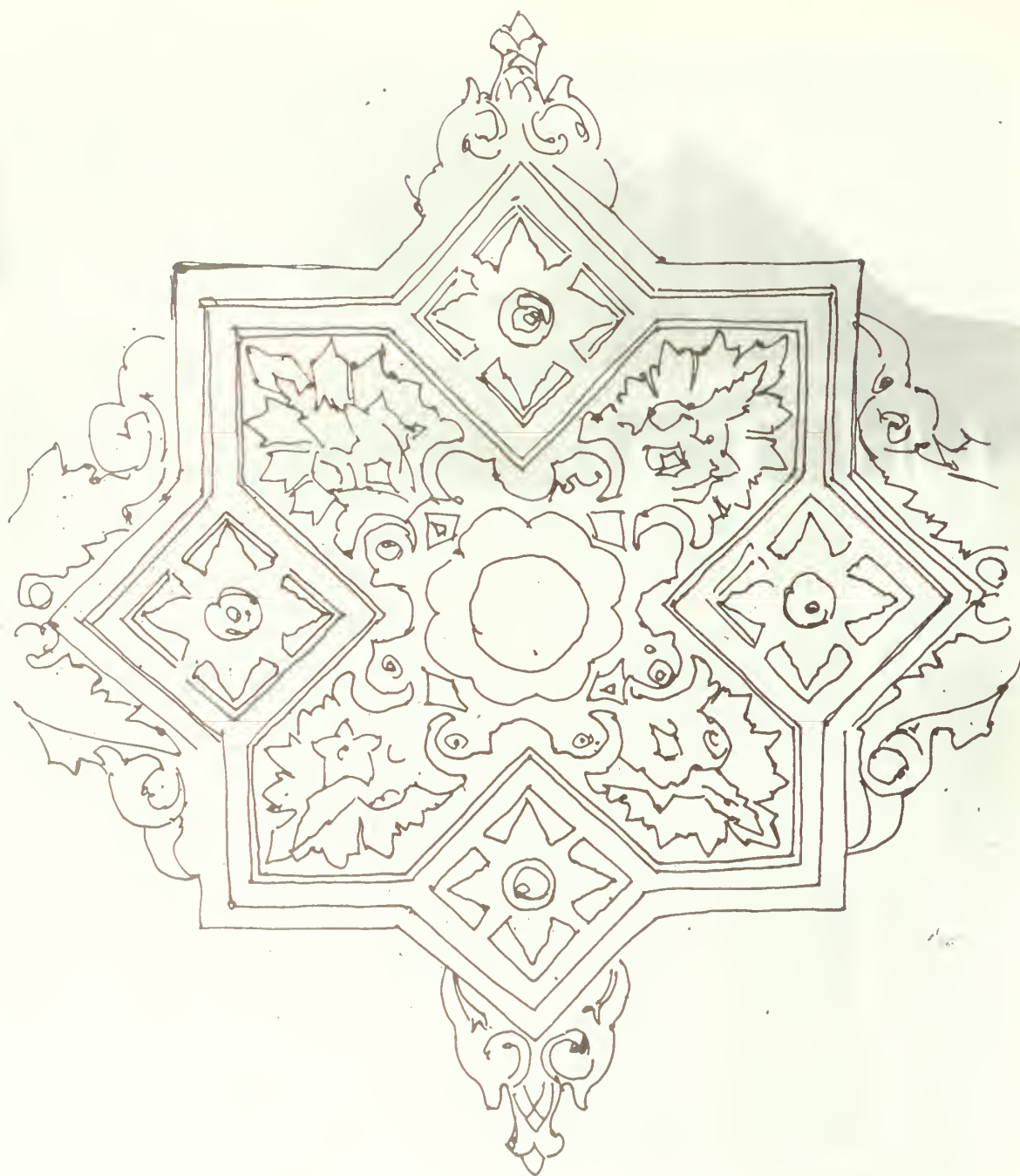
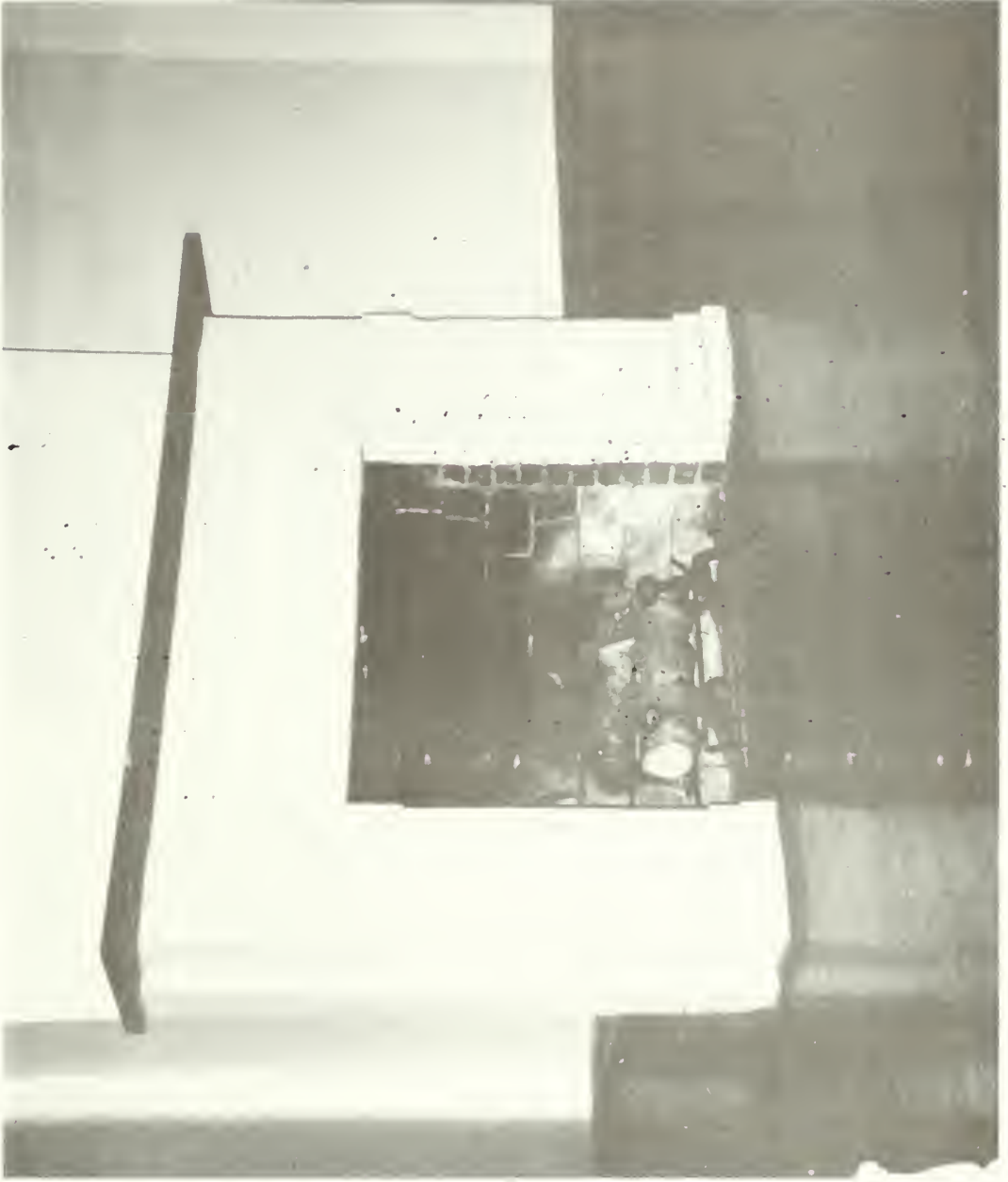


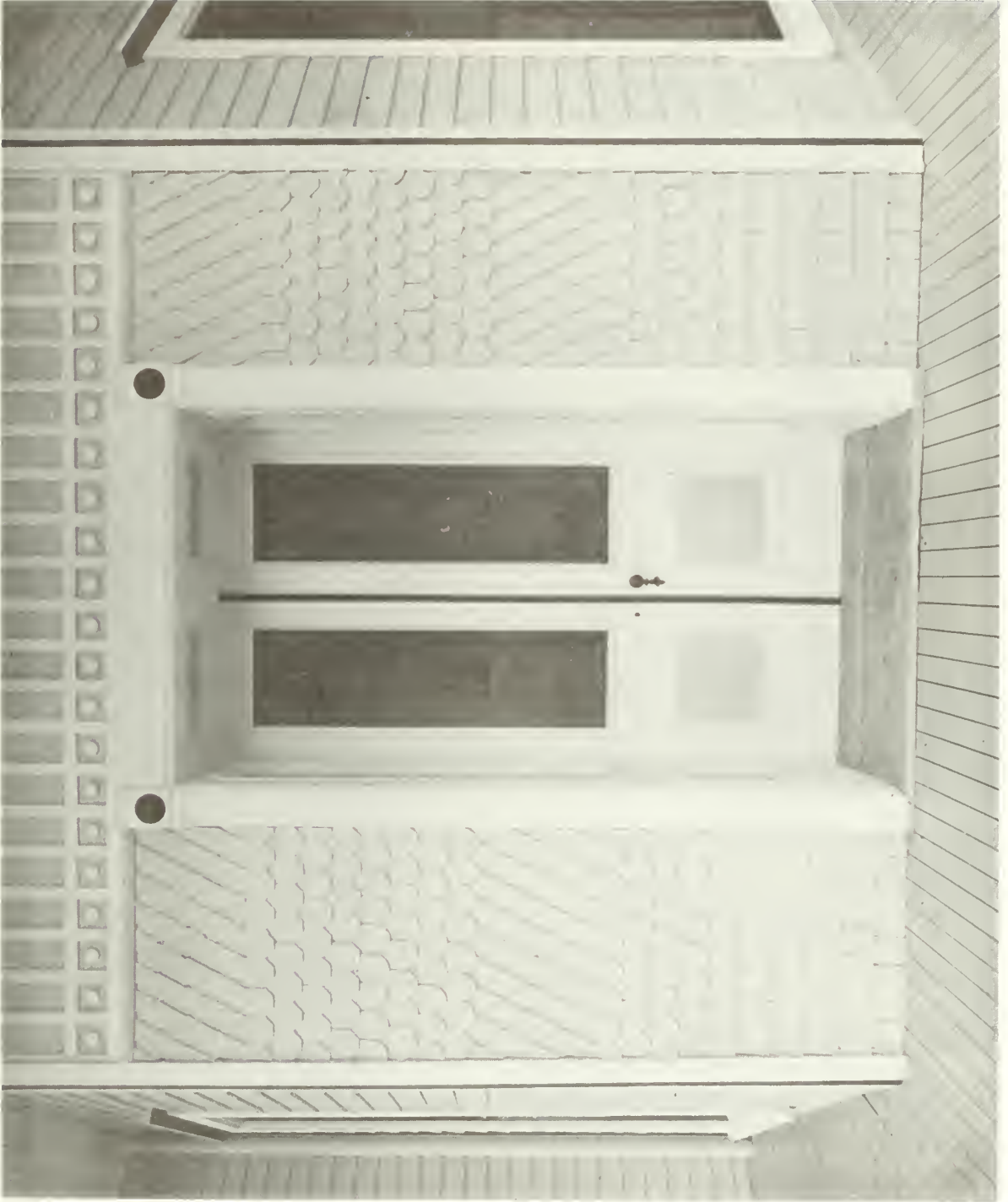
Illustration of the center ceiling medallion of the sitting room of the Lapham-Patterson House.



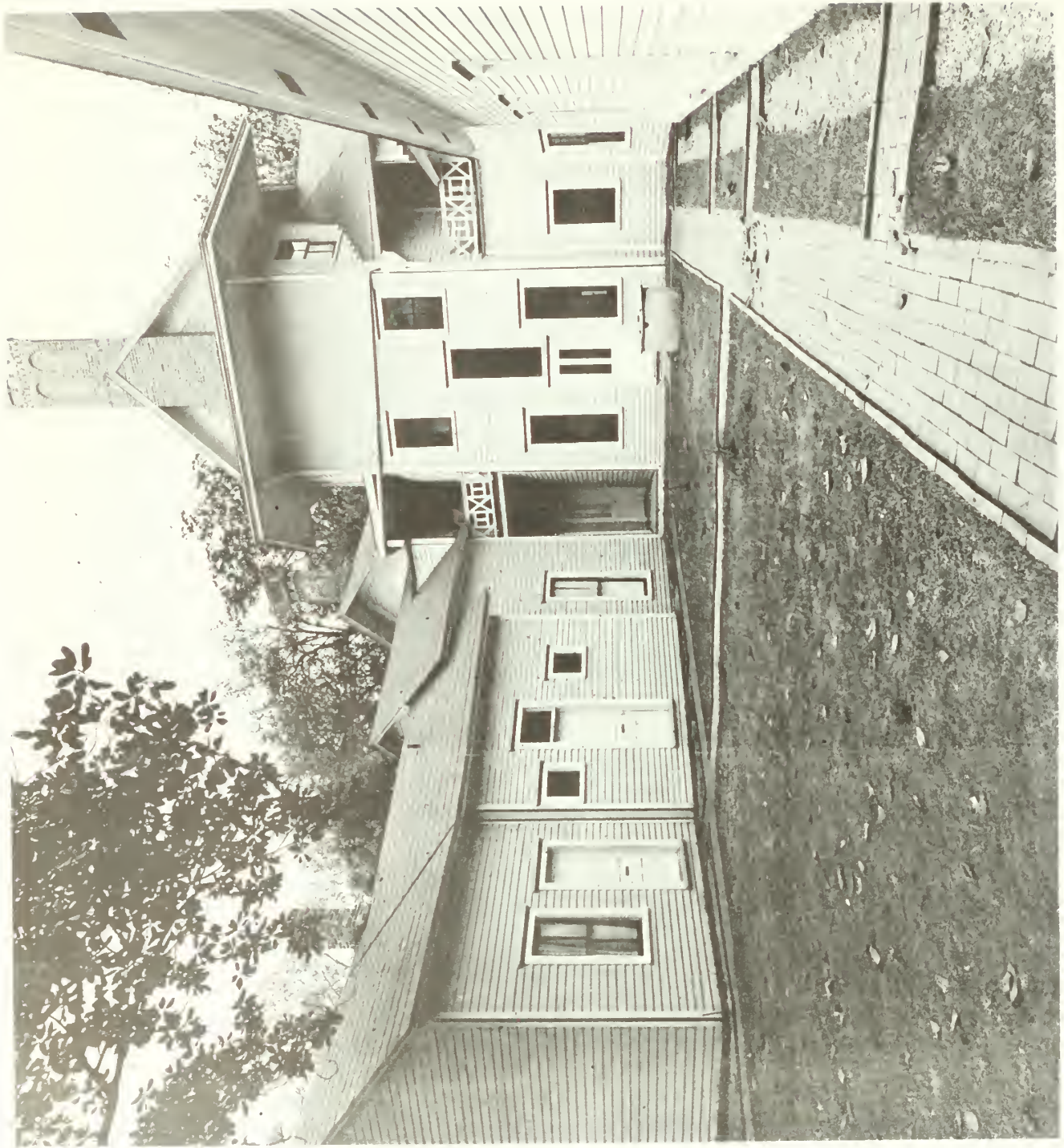
The mantel in the sitting room of the Lapham-Patterson House.



Details of ornamentation of the Lapham-Patterson House (the parlor's show window is at the bottom right of the photograph).



Front door of the Lapham-Patterson House showing the various types of wooden shingle-tiles used here for ornamentation.



Rear of the Lapham-Patterson House, including the courtyard.

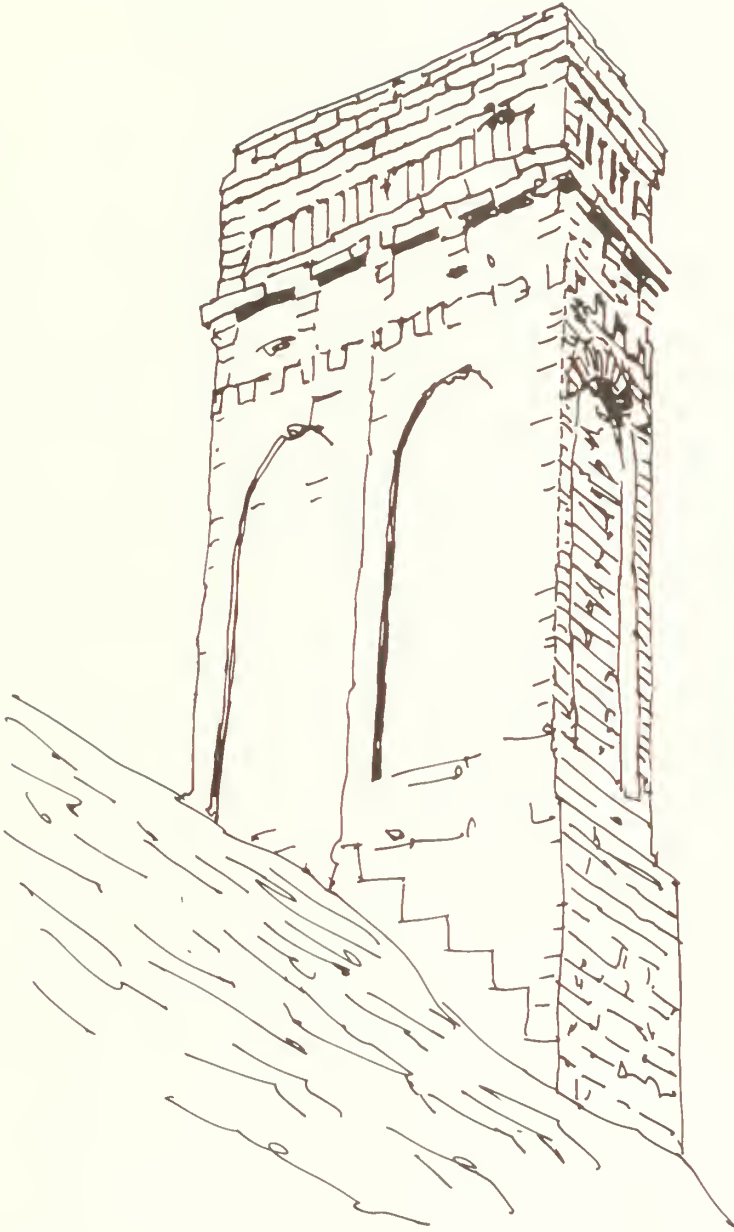


Illustration of the central chimney (dining room fireplace)
of the Lapham-Patterson House.

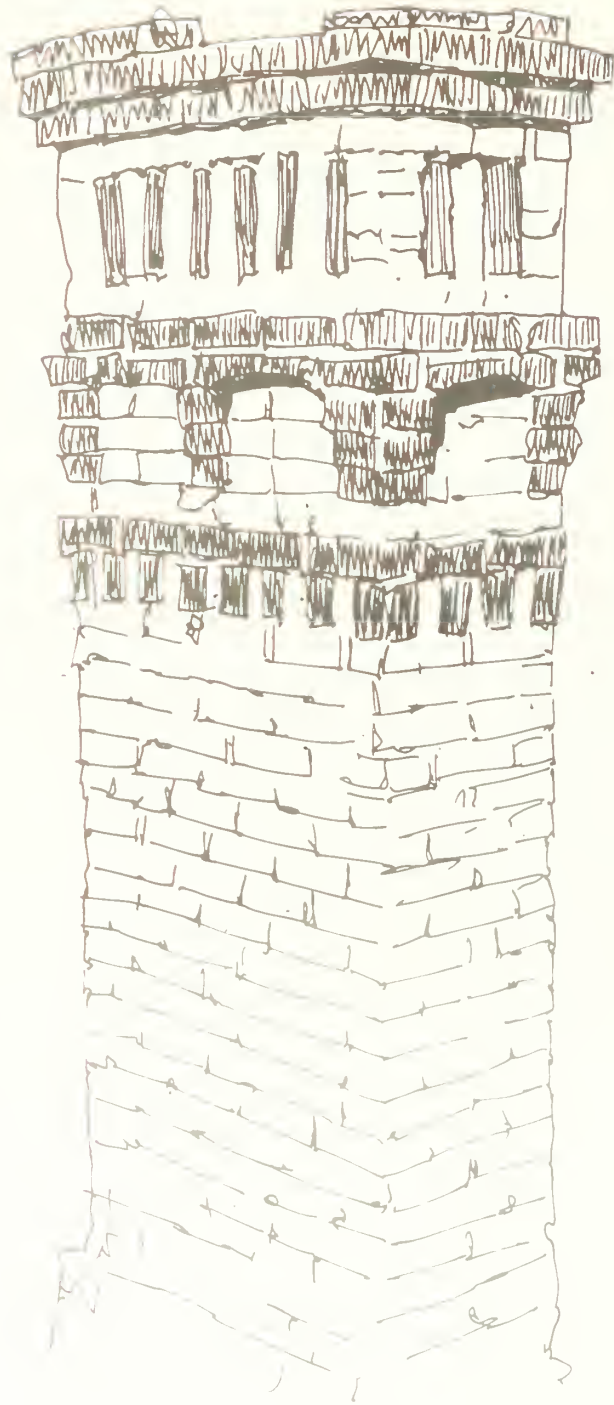


Illustration of the chimney (parlor fireplace) of the
Lapham-Patterson House.

misnamed, due in part to the wave of nostalgia experienced that year. The British commissioner's headquarters at the Exposition was publicized as being of the Queen Anne style, and the American Architect, a trade periodical which began publication that year, seized the idea and endorsed this "new" style.

This mode of architecture was, in effect, a partial revival of the designs from the Tudor or Elizabethan era of the 1500s rather than from the reign of Britain's Queen Anne, who ruled from 1702 until 1714. Its name evoked nostalgia for the past, however, which was its primary reason for being.⁶ Its use is much like the term "colonial" in the 20th Century, which refers usually to almost any building style which incorporates columns, although columns were actually more common in the post-colonial period.

Many distinguishing features of the Lapham-Patterson House reflect details of the so-called Queen Anne style, such as the massing, exterior wall surfaces, windows, chimneys, and the overall plan. Some elements of the Eastlake style, however, can also be identified in the house.⁷

The massing of the house is characteristic of the former style, in that the house combines several roof lines joined in an irregular pattern and including a turret or tower. The turret can be seen in the third-floor room's polygonal end, which juts over the porch. Although many Queen Anne style homes featured more traditional turrets, the effect of this central turret is similar to those in other homes of the period. The three floors which constitute the front porch also add to the tower or turret effect of the front of the house, all being covered by a single roof reminiscent of a fireman's hat. The other roof lines of the U-shaped house meet at various angles, much of this caused by the

existence of an outside entrance to each room, both to allow escape in case of fire (one of Lapham's admitted fears), and also to allow sunlight to reach every room directly.

The house's exterior wall surfaces again show the variety characterizing the Queen Anne style, which is indicative of the freedom of expression elicited by the period. These different sidings serve little practical purpose and are there primarily for their esthetic quality. When the Queen Anne style began being used, one of its features was the use of tiles on the exterior of the houses. In the Lapham house, shingles, rather than tile, were used to lend effect here. On the sides of the front door, five different cuts of wooden shingles can be observed.

The variety of exterior wall surfaces, while exemplifying the Queen Anne's emphasis on variety, however, also brings back memories of the stick style which preceded the Queen Anne as a major building style of the period. Elements of this style, where the supports or ribs of the structure are part of the surface detail, are used on the Lapham-Patterson house with the basic "stick" elements incorporated into the wall surrounding the "fancy" window of the parlor and in the gable over the portecochere. Both of these walls produce the effect desired of the stick style, which is the expression on the exterior of the structural framework of the building.

Several of the windows in the house are of the type often called Queen Anne, especially those in which a large pane is surrounded by smaller panes, frequently being of stained or colored glass. Bay windows are often characteristic of the style. The three windows in the house that are the "fanciest" are those in the parlor, the back of the dining room, and in the third-floor room, and all have the smaller panes

of colored glass surrounding larger panes. One of the most beautiful sights in the house occurs when sunlight peaks through the rear dining room window and between the split-flues of the chimney into the dining room.

The chimneys during the Queen Anne period were generally decorative. Again, they served more than a functional purpose. The three in this home, certainly representative of this feature, utilize bricks in a variety of patterns rather than just being squared off at the top.

Another major Queen Anne feature in the Lapham-Patterson House is its plan, reminiscent of the English manor houses, the nostalgia for which was the source for the name of the style. These manors had as their central focus the dining hall/great hall, which served both for the enjoyment of meals and for social gatherings.

The dining room of the Lapham-Patterson House is exemplary of such planning in its location directly in the center of the U-shaped house and immediately beyond the foyer. In this position, it had to be the focal point of attention of any visitors. This room, with its paneling and overhanging balcony, was used as a dining room and gathering place for events such as dances, and is the Victorian equivalent of the great hall of the manor houses. Here, the Patterson family gathered not only for their three daily meals, but also for dances, weddings, and christenings.

This "living hall" is further decorated with the stairway which cuts its way up through the two flues of the chimney to extend and form a balcony over the fireplace and dining area. The opening in the chimney allows light into the hall from the window at the back of the room, creating the effect mentioned earlier. It was this stairway and the

split-chimney composition that was highlighted when this home was designated a National Historic Landmark.

Elements of the Eastlake style, another style coexistent with the Queen Anne, are also found at some points in the house. The brackets which connect or support the three-story-high front columns are turned and exemplify this style, which calls for columns and other ornaments resembling table legs. The main sculptured columns which support the overhanging roof are considered by some observers to be in the Eastlake style.⁸

Despite the unique image which the Lapham-Patterson House presents to most of the general public, it is in actuality an accumulation of details that were, for the most part, in common usage at the time of its construction. It is the inspiration and ability of the owner and his architect to whom credit is due for the creation which presents these details in such a forceful manner. When this house was proposed for National Historic Landmark status, which it achieved in 1974, it was said:

The house speaks for itself as an unusually individualistic and vivid record of the taste of an era when people attempted to outdo one another in the creativity brought to the eclectic, picturesque and romantic resort cottage....

[It] is the most exuberant and daring Victorian mansion in Thomasville, and is a challenge to all others in the state. Innovative in form, detail, and construction, it is complete in every detail ... An architectural tour-de-force.⁹

FOOTNOTES

Chapter 1The Architecture of the Lapham-Patterson House

- ¹ Letter of January 8, 1974, from John Maas, Philadelphia, to John A. Patterson, then curator of the site.
- ² William Dean Howells, The Rise of Silas Lapham (New York: Dodd, Mead, & Co., 1964), pp. 37-42.
- ³ Script for the slide show for "The Victorian Heritage" exhibition at the Atlanta Historical Society in 1976, by Elizabeth A. Lyon; and the accompanying guidebook, Atlanta Architecture: The Victorian Heritage (Atlanta: The Atlanta Historical Society, 1976), also by Lyon.
- ⁴ Both books were reprinted by the American Life Foundation, Watkins Glen, N.Y. The Bicknell and Comstock works under one title, Victorian Heritage, in 1976, and the Palliser one in 1975.
- ⁵ The National Union Catalog of Pre-1956 Imprints (Chicago: Mansell Information/Publishing, Ltd., for the American Library Association, 1969), arranged alphabetically by authors, indicates many works by Bicknell and Company.
- ⁶ Vincent J. Scully, Jr., The Shingle Style and the Stick Style, originally published 1955, revised 1971 (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1976), pp. 15-52.
- ⁷ Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles (Cambridge, Mass.: The M.I.T. Press, 1969), pp. 115-24; and Lyon, above.
- ⁸ For the architectural analysis, interview with Elizabeth A. Lyon, Ph.D., on architectural styles as expressed by this house; personal observations by the author and the curator, R.M. Willett of Thomasville.
- ⁹ National Historic Landmark information sheet which cites the National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 1970, written by Russell Wright, Thomasville, Ga., preservation planner. The quote is attributed to him. Also National Register files on the house, located in the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of National Resources.

Chapter 2

TUDOR ROMMERDALL: ARCHITECT, BUILDER, CONTRACTOR

"Rommerdall has the contract." These were oft-quoted words in Thomasville, Georgia, during the brief career of Theodore J.P. Rommerdall, the Danish-born architect and contractor. Having moved to Thomasville in 1885, he may have built the Lapham-Patterson House, as well as other notable buildings before his death there just two years later.

This chapter deals with the life and career of Rommerdall, who is the architect most strongly indicated as the builder of the Lapham-Patterson House for Charles W. Lapham of Chicago in the fall of 1884. Since the building of the house was not mentioned in the newspapers of the day, however, knowledge of the architect had to be derived from other sources.

There are many reasons why it is believed that Rommerdall was the architect-builder, among them being his proximity to the Lapham family in Spring Bluff, Illinois. Others are his early arrival in Thomasville and quick rise to prominence there in 1885, indicating that he had accomplished something to bring him to the attention of leading local citizens; the similarity of the Lapham house with the surviving buildings and photographs of those not surviving that Rommerdall is known (through the newspaper) to have built. This chapter brings together those clues and elaborates upon them.

Known as "Tudor,"¹ Rommerdall was born in Aalborg, Denmark, on October 18, 1849, to a Swedish family, whose members migrated to the

United States and settled in the Chicago area around 1869.² According to Rommerdall's descendants, the Chicago Water Tower, built in 1869, had been pointed out to them during their childhood as one structure on which he had worked. Since he would have been 20 years old if this were true, he probably worked in the capacity of a laborer on this project.³

Around 1870, Rommerdall married Danish-born Mathilde C. Linquist,⁴ and the couple had two sons: Holger, born in Illinois, ca. 1872; and Louis, born in 1875 in Wisconsin,⁵ where the family had moved in the intervening years. In 1875 and 1880, while living in Kenosha, Wisconsin, he styled himself a brick mason.⁶ By 1885, he had moved his family and his trade to Spring Bluff, Lake County, Illinois.⁷ This summer-resort community, which originated around 1870 and disappeared some 25 years later, was only a few miles south of Kenosha, northwest of Chicago,⁸ and nine miles north of present-day Waukegan, Illinois. It was here that Rommerdall came into contact with the Lapham family.

Anson E. Lapham, uncle of Charles W. Lapham,⁹ was postmaster at Spring Bluff from 1871 to 1886 and from 1889 to 1891, during Republican administrations.¹⁰ As Anson was Charles' father's only surviving sibling, it can be presumed that Charles stayed in touch with him and visited his uncle and his family at this resort town. Anson's children, in 1885, were the legal owners of three tracts of land which surrounded the little community of Spring Bluff,¹¹ and thus it seems that it would have been impossible for Tudor Rommerdall to have worked in the town without having known Lapham as postmaster and his children. Although there are no known examples of Rommerdall's work still extant in Spring Bluff,¹² it can be presumed that he must have shown some sample of his

craftsmanship to C.W. Lapham in order to obtain the assignment to build the Lapham home in Georgia.

Rommerdall probably first came to Thomasville in 1884, the same year in which Lapham and Hackett bought the land before they let the contracts for their houses. It is not known what time of year work on the Lapham house was begun, but it is probable that, if Rommerdall built it, he started in October of that year and finished the work in the early part of the following year -- the same schedule he used when he built Mayor H.W. Hopkins' home in 1885-86.¹³ Owners were not necessarily present in Thomasville while their homes were being constructed,¹⁴ although Lapham must have accompanied Rommerdall to Thomasville at least once to orient him to the town and the home site.

The Lapham house may well be the finest example of Rommerdall's building ability, for all his documentable works seem to fall short of the quality of this home, believed to be his earliest surviving creation. The difference in the quality or elaborateness in these structures, however, may have been due to the fact that the other owners had less money to spend or different needs, both emotionally and socially, for such expression in their homes.

By the summer of 1885, Rommerdall was leaving to return to Spring Bluff, but he advertised that he would return in the fall. Before his departure, the Thomasville newspaper, The Thomasville Times, prefaced his advertisement with these kind remarks:

The attention of those who intend building at an early date is particularly called to the advertisement of Mr. T. Rommerdall, Chicago. Mr. Rommerdall has done excellent work here, in the way of building, and he will no doubt do well on his return. Call on him for plans, specifications, or bids. See his add [sic].¹⁵

Rommerdall's advertisement in the same issue, which was to run from July of 1885 until early in 1886, indicated his versatility:

T. Rommerdall
Architect and Builder

Will return to Thomasville the 15th September. Is prepared to take contracts for building of any design.

Plans and specifications furnished on short notice.
address:

T. Rommerdall
Spring Bluff, Lake Co., Ill.

july 25-eowtjan 25¹⁶

By the end of his first season of work in Thomasville, during which it is believed that he built the Lapham house, Rommerdall obtained no mention in the weekly press until the announcement of the awarding of a contract for the building of an office for Colonel A.T. MacIntyre (1822-1900).¹⁷ The building for MacIntyre, a former congressman and one of the town's oldest and most able lawyers, was completed by July of 1885.¹⁸ Rommerdall's other major local contract, secured before his departure for the season, was for the residence of Henry W. Hopkins (1850-1945), Thomasville's mayor and judge. This contract, obtained that summer, was implemented the following fall upon Rommerdall's return to the town.¹⁹

To have obtained contracts from both of these important local businessmen indicates that they had confidence in Rommerdall's abilities and obviously had seen fine examples of his work by which to judge him. Rommerdall, as will be shown, was not the only builder in town, but he was the only one who advertised himself as an architect and contractor during the summer of 1885.

Upon Tudor's return in the fall of 1885, he brought "six first class mechanics"²⁰ with him, these being carpenters, brick masons, and other tradesmen. [Rommerdall's crew is pictured at work on the Hopkins house in the photograph on p.173, and he may appear in the photograph as well.²¹]

After renting the Episcopal rectory as his office, Rommerdall again advertised in the newspaper:

T. Rommerdall, architect and contractor, is prepared to take contracts, large or small, for brick or wood work.

It

Mr. T. Rommerdall has brought with him from Chicago a large force of skilled mechanics and guarantees satisfaction.

It

If you want a building of brick or wood, regardless of size, apply to T. Rommerdall for plans and prices. It ²²

Although he may have built many smaller structures in the town, many of which might still survive, the newspaper of the day mentioned only his public structures or those built for the wealthy and prominent citizens. Rommerdall himself bought six town lots in the newly-opened West End section of town and may have built his own home there.²³

It is not known specifically who worked for Rommerdall, especially those persons he brought to the town from the North, but local tradition indicates that two families apparently were associated with him. Both William Miller and his brother Alexander appear to have been well-established in the building trades after Rommerdall's death,²⁴ but they were not mentioned individually in the press until that time. They were Canadians and were remembered in the town long after the townspeople had

forgotten Tudor Rommerdall, since William lived until 1936.²⁵

The Gottwals were also new arrivals during this same period, and family tradition places J.Z. Gottwals as a carpenter who assisted Rommerdall in construction of the Lapham house, as well as the Ballowe-Quinn house, where descendants of Gottwals later resided.²⁶ It is possible that these two men were brought to the town by Rommerdall, although no proof of this has yet been found. Gottwals' family tradition holds that he was there in 1883.

Rommerdall appears to have been exceptionally versatile, not only in the type of work his crews could perform, but also in the work he could master personally. Throughout his brief, four-year career in Thomasville, he advertised himself as architect, builder, and contractor, and his diversity is evidenced by his local building achievements.²⁷ In addition to homes, he also constructed business establishments such as MacIntyre's building; the "fine wood interior" of Reid and Palmer's two stores,²⁸ which included shelves and prescription cases; the Allen Normal Industrial School for Negroes, sponsored by the American Missionary Association, a 32-room structure which included living and education area;²⁹ a hotel, the Masury;³⁰ the City Water Works brick tower [reminiscent of his early work in Chicago, perhaps];³¹ and a few lesser works, including a signal flagstaff for the town,³² for which the city thanked him; the tessellated floor of the Thomasville National Bank [a mosaic pattern of small square stones],³³ and concrete sidewalks.³⁴

Rommerdall's career came to an abrupt end at age 38. On December 6, 1887, he and his crew were working on the brick City Water Tower, a structure consisting of a center pier of brick, 70 feet tall and surrounded at a distance of nine feet by an outer brick wall. While they worked, the pier snapped and collapsed, knocking out a portion of the

outer wall. Rommerdall and several others fell from the structure to their deaths.

The "skilled architect and master builder" was buried with Episcopal rites in the local cemetery, Laurel Hill. This burial was temporary until his body could be reinterred in the North.³⁵ A few months later, his widow had the body reburied in Green Ridge Cemetery, Kenosha, Wisconsin,³⁶ indicating her continued affection for their former home. According to the newspaper, Masonic rites were to have taken place at the time of the reburial.

Mathilde (1850-1917), who sold the Rommerdalls' property in Thomasville and returned North in 1889, survived Tudor by 30 years. She died at the home of her eldest son, Holger, in Erie, Pennsylvania, and her body was returned to Kenosha to lie beside Tudor's. Mathilde was described in her obituary in the Kenosha newspaper as the widow of the "prominent contractor of this city 25 years ago," and she was recalled with "high esteem."³⁷

Holger, a general contractor and registered engineer at the time of his death in 1936 in Erie, has at least one home attributed to him there. He was survived by a son, Herbert.

The younger of the Rommerdalls' sons, Louis, died in 1935 in Chicago. His descendants, who still reside in that area, could offer no information concerning their ancestor, Tudor, except that he was involved in the building of the Chicago Water Tower, ca. 1869.³⁸

The legacy of Tudor Rommerdall, architect and builder, is best recalled in the buildings he is known to have planned and constructed in Georgia. Other than the Lapham-Patterson House, which is attributed to him for various reasons outlined in this chapter, one of which is the



The MacIntyre Building (1885), built by Rommerdall, at 103 South Broad Street in Thomasville (now Fran's Ice Cream Parlor).



Details of the door frames of the
Lapham-Patterson House (above)
and the MacIntyre Building (right).





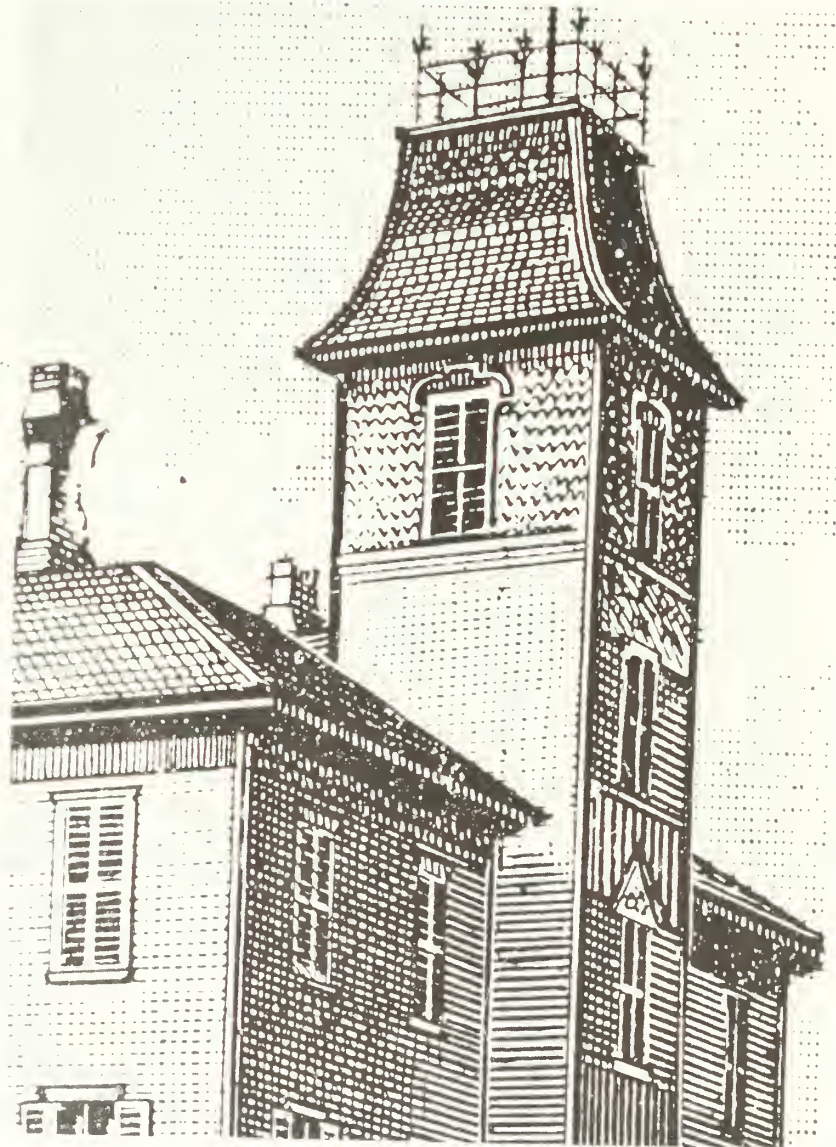
The Frank Hopkins House (c. 1885-86), built by Rommerdall (now demolished).



The Ballowe-Quinn House (c. 1886), built by Rommerdall, at
501 East Clay Street in Thomasville.



Cleveland Park (estate of J.W. Masury), begun in 1887 by Rommerdall, finished by others (destroyed by fire in 1930s).



Detail of the Allen Normal and Industrial School (1886-87), built by Rommerdall (now demolished).



The MacIntyre Building mantel (above), and the arch and show window at left (both on the second floor).



The Henry W. Hopkins House (1885-86), built by Rommerdall. The photograph was taken in late 1885. The house exists today at 229 Remington Avenue without the cupola.



The A.H. Mason House (c. 1886), built by Rommerdall at 116 Colton Avenue in Thomasville.

similarity of features of many of the buildings listed below, the following have been documented as works of Tudor Rommerdall:

(1) The MacIntyre Building (1885) for Colonel A.T. MacIntyre, lawyer. This two-story office building, Inman Drugs (formerly Massey Drugs), now Fran's Ice Cream Parlor, still stands at 103 South Broad Street. The brick work was done by Henry Arnold. The bay window with colored-glass is identical to that of the Lapham-Patterson House,³⁹ and interior door facings, mantelpieces, and archways are also identical.

(2) Henry W. Hopkins House (1885-86). Still standing at 229 Remington Avenue, with some alterations having been made, this house was built during the time that Hopkins (1850-1945), long a powerful figure in Thomasville, was mayor of the town. It is now owned by Jack B. Martin. It originally had a square cupola,⁴⁰ but this has since been removed. [See photograph, p. 173.]

(3) Frank Hopkins House (1885-86). Demolished ca. 1971, this house stood on Dawson Street, just behind the H.W. Hopkins House, and was built for the mayor's brother. Photographs and some drawings of the structure, which also had a cupola, still exist.⁴¹ [See Page 169.]

(4) A.H. Mason House (1886) [Mason-Ball House]. Still standing today, this house was built for this Philadelphian whose family also later purchased Susina Plantation (now in Grady County) and whose descendants still live in Thomasville and vicinity. The house, at 116 Colton Avenue in East End, was described as "elegant" in its day.⁴² It is now owned by Tom Gay. [See Page 174.]

(5) Ballowe-Quinn Home (1886). At 501 East Clay Street, this home was built for Robert Anderson Ballowe, who married a local woman, Ellen Douglas, in 1886 and was the local agent for a Valdosta lumberyard. The

couple moved away in July of 1887, and the house later became the house of the C.B. Quinn family. Gottwals is said to have been the carpenter for the house. Still standing, it is now owned by Terrell Means, Jr. Also possessing a cupola,⁴³ the house is multi-sided like the Lapham-Patterson House, and has East Lake molding in the corridor, a porch rail and woodwork similar to the Lapham-Patterson House. [See Page 170.]

(6) Reid Brothers Stores (1886-87). In May of 1886, Rommerdall did the interior of this book and stationery store, later to become Reid and Palmer, of curled Georgia pine. In June of 1887, he did the interior in their drugstore next door, being cited as doing shelving and prescription cases. He was complimented in the newspaper for the work: "He has shown that it is no longer necessary to send off for workmen to do extra fine work." This is ironic, since Rommerdall himself was "imported."⁴⁴

(7) Allen Normal and Industrial School (formerly Connecticut Industrial School). Built for blacks in 1886-87 by the American Missionary Association at a cost of \$10,000, Rommerdall's plans were used for its construction, and it was dedicated in April of 1887. The building contained 32 rooms, which included parlors, dining rooms, laundry, classrooms, recitation rooms, and sleeping apartments. A three-story structure with a square tower, it was located on four acres donated by Mayor Hopkins at the end of Lester Street. It was later demolished.⁴⁵ [Page 171.]

(8) Mrs. M. Parker Anderson Cottage (1887). Located on Crawford Street "near the Piney Woods Hotel," it was described only as a beautiful cottage. Although Georgia-born, Mrs. Anderson was a resident of New York at the time.⁴⁶

(9) "Cleveland Park" (1887-88). The Masury Plantation, this structure was built three miles from town on the old Blackshear place; it

burned ca. 1937. John W. Masury of New York, who manufactured Masury Paints, built this 32-room "cottage" at a cost of approximately \$50,000. The plans and designs for the cottage may well have been submitted by Rommerdall, although they were drawn up and finalized by a New York architect. Work began in September of 1887 and was incomplete when Rommerdall died. The place was finished in early 1888 by Alexander Miller of Canada, who had a crew of 30 working on it. A combination of architectural styles, it had a continuous veranda of 385 feet [see illustration on Page 171.]⁴⁷

(10) The Masury Building (1887-88). Called the Masury Hotel, this building has been demolished, having been built on the corner of Broad and Jefferson streets on the site of an old stable, again for John W. Masury of New York. Rommerdall and Chase submitted separate plans for this, and since Rommerdall was chosen to build it, it can be assumed that his plan was accepted. It was perhaps enhanced somewhat by a New York architect, for when the building was dedicated in 1888, the cornerstone read "Kerwood and Scott." The three-story building, which contained an iron-and-glass front, had 36 apartments. Rommerdall went on a personal buying trip to Chicago in November of 1887 to purchase elements for the structure. He had not completed it at the time of his death on December 6, and the hotel was finished by William Miller, brother to Alexander, who finished Cleveland Park. Miller also immediately got a contract to extend the hotel in 1888.⁴⁸ [See Page 120.]

(11) The Water Works (1887). Never finished, this structure has been demolished. A brick tower, 70 feet high at the time of its collapse, it was this disaster which caused Rommerdall's death. It was

begun in October and was due to be completed in January of 1888 at a cost of \$11,714. The City Council later authorized another water works, which was started from "scratch." A photograph of the ruins of this structure still exists.⁴⁹

FOOTNOTES

Chapter 2Tudor Rommerdall: Architect, Builder, Contractor

- 1 The nickname "Tudor" is found only in Webb's Thomasville Directory issued in 1886 for several Rommerdall citations. (Xerox copy at the Thomas County Historical Society.)
- 2 "Down to Death," The Thomasville Times, Saturday, October 10, 1887, p. 3, c. 2. The article describes details of Rommerdall's death and is also his obituary.
- 3 Telephone interview in March of 1977, with Mrs. Donna Rommerdall Doherty of Cicero, Ill. One of two surviving great-granddaughters of Tudor Rommerdall, she said that almost no information remained in family tradition about him except for this attribution to the Chicago Water Tower. His name does not appear on the plaques affixed to the structure.
- 4 Marriage date approximated from birth of first child. Maiden name from death certificate, File No. 117435-17, State of Pennsylvania.
- 5 1880 Census, Kenosha County, Wisconsin (Soundex Index Card), and 1900 Census (Soundex Index Card), for the widow and two sons, Cook County, Illinois. They were living at 20 Evergreen Avenue in Chicago in 1900.
- 6 Kenosha [Wisconsin] City Directory 1875, where he is shown as living at Ann and S. Park streets; 1880 Census, Kenosha County, Wisconsin, where he lists himself as "brick mason," living on Wisconsin Street; Vol. 14, E.D. 76, Sheet 16, Line 7.
- 7 The Thomasville Times, July 25, 1885, p. 2, c. 4. Advertisement of T. Rommerdall asking people to write to him at Spring Bluff.
- 8 John J. Halsey (ed.), A History of Lake County, Illinois (1912). Halsey gives the terms of postmasters of Spring Bluff and its transfer to the town of Winthrop Harbor in 1894. See also, National Archives and Records Service letter of March 22, 1977; and telephone conversations and letters during the winter of 1977 with James R. Getz, president of the Lake County [Illinois] Historical Society.
- 9 Relationship established in Laphams in America (1953) by Bertha B. Aldridge, p. 109; and The History and Map of Danby, Vermont (1869), by J.C. Williams, p. 186.
- 10 A History of Lake County by Halsey; and National Archives and Records Service letter of March 22, 1977.
- 11 Personal tracing by James R. Getz of H.R. Page & Co. Atlas (1885) of Lake County, Illinois, showing lands of D.A., Miss E.A., and Miss M.L.

Lapham as surrounding the town and post office of Spring Bluff. Sources in Footnote 9 indicate these are the children of Anson E. Lapham.

- 12 Telephone interviews and letters of March of 1977 with James R. Getz, president of the Lake County Historical Society since 1948 and also active in local historic preservation efforts. He indicated that he had never heard of Rommerdall.
- 13 The Thomasville Times, October 10, 1885, p. 3, c. 2 (work commences). Also, February 6, 1886, p. 3, c. 3 (announces that the residence has gas and water throughout).
- 14 As evidenced by the numerous accounts of local persons acting as agents for Northern tourists and investors while they were out of town. Most of these Northerners were there from December through May, which was also the season for the hotels.
- 15 The Thomasville Times, July 25, 1885, p. 3, c. 2.
- 16 Ibid., p. 2, c. 4.
- 17 The author has read all issues of The Thomasville Times for 1884 through 1887, inclusive, and has found no mention of anyone building the Lapham House. The other weekly newspaper, The Southern Enterprise, was independently published until the newspapers merged in May of 1889 to form a daily newspaper. No issues of The Southern Enterprise for this period are known to exist.
- 18 The Thomasville Times, March 14, 1885, p. 3, c. 2. "Contract Award." Also, July 11, 1885, p. 3, c. 4. MacIntyre's facts come from the Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1949, p. 1488.
- 19 Henry William Hopkins file at the Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta.
- 20 The Thomasville Times, October 10, 1885, p. 3, c. 2.
- 21 Photograph copied from a copy in the possession of Jack B. Martin, uncle of the curator of the Lapham-Patterson House, R. Martin Willett.
- 22 The Thomasville Times, October 17, 1885, p. 3, c. 4 (about the rectory), and p. 3, c. 6 for the "Local Notices" with his several advertisements. The 1886 directory gives his address as McLean, at the corner of Crawford, for office and home, which was behind the Episcopal church.
- 23 Ibid., July 11, 1885, p. 3, c. 4 (mentioned purchase of several lots, number not specified); and also January 23, 1886, p. 3, c. 5, "Sale of Real Estate" indicates he bought other lots. Thomas County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deed Book U, p. 146, H.W. Hopkins to T.J.P. Rommerdall, July 2, 1885, for \$634, Lots 10, 13, 16, 22, 29 and 41 in West End, all one-fourth of an acre each; and p. 147, to Mrs. Rommerdall, Lots 6, 14, and 21 in West End. Although this is only nine

lots, the newspaper account of his estate sale, in The Thomasville Times of May 11, 1889, p. 1, c. 3, indicates only six were sold, apparently with no improvements, for \$60 to \$80 each. Deeds indicate those sold were the six purchased by Rommerdall. No record was found of the sale of the three owned by his wife.

- 24 The Thomasville Times, December 17, 1887, p. 3, c. 1. William Miller, who resumed the work on the Masury Building, was called an "excellent workman and a gentleman of large experience in the building trade," at 27 years of age. Also, The Thomasville Times, February 4, 1888, p. 3, c. 5, "The Masury Mansion." In this article, Alexander Miller was called "the finished workman."
- 25 Obituary of William Miller, The Thomasville Times, March 17, 1936, p. 1, c. 4 and c. 7.
- 26 Interviews in March of 1977 between R. Martin Willett, curator at the Lapham-Patterson House, and Mrs. Donnie Walker, whose late husband was a grandson of John Z. Gottwals.
- 27 Webb's Thomasville Directory, p. 61.
- 28 The Thomasville Times, May 29, 1886, p. 3, c. 1 (bookstore); and June 18, 1887, p. 3, c. 1; July 16, 1887, p. 3, c. 2, for the drugstore.
- 29 Ibid., February 20, 1886, p. 3, c. 6, about having the contract. The issue of November 20, 1886, p. 3, c. 5, gives the features of the place.
- 30 Ibid., July 30, 1887, p. 3, c. 4, gives a description, and August 27, 1887, p. 3, c. 2, mentions his being awarded the contract.
- 31 Ibid., August 6, 1887, p. 3, c. 2.
- 32 Ibid., March 20, 1886, p. 3, c. 7, Town Council proceedings for March 15, 1886.
- 33 Ibid., June 11, 1887, p. 3, c. 3.
- 34 Ibid., July 30, 1887, p. 3, c. 4.
- 35 Ibid., Saturday, December 10, 1887, p. 3, c. 2, article entitled "Down to Death."
- 36 Telephone conversation with Sexton, Green Ridge Cemetery, Kenosha, Wisconsin, winter, 1977.
- 37 Her dates from the cemetery record (see Footnote 36 above) and her death certificate, File No. 117435-17, State of Pennsylvania; her obituary from the Telegraph-Courier of Kenosha, Wisconsin; and The [Thomasville] Daily Times-Enterprise, May 19, 1889, p. 1, c. 2, announcing her return North.

- 38 Letters of March 30 and April 20, 1977, from Erie County Historical Society, Erie, Pa., and telephone interviews with Mrs. Donna Rommerdall Doherty of Cicero, Ill., March 18, 1977, by the author.
- 39 The Thomasville Times, March 14, 1885, p. 3, c. 2, "Contract Awarded." Arnold is mentioned in the issue of May 16, 1885, p. 3, c. 5; and the completion on July 11, 1885, p. 3, c. 4.
- 40 Ibid., July 11, 1885, p. 3, c. 4, for the contract; commenced work in issue of October 10, 1885, p. 3, c. 2, and the house was apparently completed by the issue of February 6, 1886, p. 3, c. 3.
- 41 Ibid., October 24, 1885, p. 3, c. 4.
- 42 Ibid., October 2, 1886, p. 3, c. 5.
- 43 Thomas County, Georgia, Superior Court, Mortgages Book H, p. 729. This is a lien on the house for non-payment of funds. It gives the location of the house, although no deed exists in Ballowe's name. A house for R.A. Ballowe is listed in a column entitled, "Improvements in Thomasville" in the issue of October 23, 1886, p. 3, c. 2. The Gottwals tradition, including that of early ownership by C.B. Quinn, comes from an interview with Mrs. Donnie Walker in March of 1977 by R.M. Willett and a telephone interview with Mrs. Louise Horton (née Quinn) of Anderson, S.C. Thomas County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deed Book W, p. 594, deed dated January 18, 1888, from E.M. Mallette to C.B. Quinn for Lot 24, corner of Clay and Hardaway streets.
- 44 The Thomasville Times, May 29, 1886, p. 3, c. 1, for the bookstore; November 6, 1886, p. 3, c. 4, for Palmer's taking over part; June 18, 1887, p. 3, c. 1, for the drugstore and July 16, 1887, p. 3, c. 2 and July 9, 1887, p. 3, c. 4, for more information on the latter store.
- 45 Ibid., February 20, 1886, p. 3, c. 6, about his having the contract, and October 2, 1886, p. 3, c. 3, for his doing the plans, which they considered a notable achievement. The college is described in the issue of November 20, 1886, p. 3, c. 5, and a further item about the proposed completion date in February 19, 1887, p. 3, c. 1. A story which appeared in The American Missionary, April, 1887, Vol. 41, No. 4, p. 112, concerning the new building, did not mention Rommerdall; nor was he mentioned in the previous issue of March, 1886, p. 62, in a discussion of the school moving from Quitman to Thomasville.
- 46 The Thomasville Times, April 23, 1887, p. 3, c. 3, "A Model Improvement." This is the only mention of this house. Its location has not been determined; no search has been conducted.
- 47 Ibid., May 14, 1887, p. 3, c. 4, "A Big Contract," discusses Rommerdall's getting the contract; August 27, 1887, p. 3, c. 3, about the arrival of the plans from the New York architect; November 5, 1887, p. 3, c. 2, about the naming of the place; and February 4, 1888, "The

Masury Mansion," p. 3, c. 5, about Miller taking over the project. The architect's name comes from notes of James Gribben, III, the source being the newspapers, but the specific issue is not identified.

- ⁴⁸ The Thomasville Times, July 30, 1887, p. 3, c. 4, "Another Big Building," discusses the plans submitted by Rommerdall and Chase; August 27, 1887, p. 3, c. 2, "The New Masury Building," about Rommerdall's having the contract and p. 3, c. 5, about his plans to start that week; September 24, 1887, p. 3, c. 2, about commencing work "next week," and September 3, 1887, p. 3, c. 4, about the brick suppliers and his trip up North for items for the house; November 12, p. 3, c. 1, about the laying of brick to begin; December 17, p. 3, c. 1, about William Miller taking on the contract; April 7, 1887, p. 1, c. 2, about the cornerstone, and April 14, p. 1, c. 4, about the addition. Here, Miller is called the "well known architect," whereas only a few months earlier, he was the "excellent workman."
- ⁴⁹ Ibid., August 6, 1887, p. 3, c. 2, about the contract; October 8, p. 3, c. 2, about the first brick being laid; October 15, p. 3, c. 3, and February 18, 1888, p. 3, c. 5, about the new plans being drawn for the new water tower. The contract information is substantiated by the Minutes of the City of Thomasville Town Council (1883-1900) for August 2, 1887 (p. 261), when the bid of Thompson, Rommerdall and Co. was accepted. Agreed to make it out of Chattahoochee Brick for \$11,714. Minutes of November 14 indicate they were paid for reaching the first section and the December 12 minutes (p. 283) tell of his death and the project's collapse.

Chapter 3

BUILDERS IN THOMASVILLE: 1884-1888

Although the massive building program in Thomasville covered several decades, a select survey has been made of the construction which flourished during the years 1884-1888, when Tudor Rommerdall worked in Thomasville and the Lapham-Patterson House was built. [See Chapter 2 for a discussion of Rommerdall's activity in this area.] In this chapter, information is offered concerning those builders who were prominent during this period, but it does not purport to be entirely comprehensive as research relied most heavily on the newspapers of the time as the primary sources of information, and dates past June of 1888 were not researched.

In 1888, a booklet entitled "How to Build a House" was offered for sale by The Thomasville Times. The booklet, at a cost of 25 cents, included plans and specifications for 25 houses costing from \$300 to \$5,000, and could be ordered from J.S. Ogilvie Publishers in New York.¹ It may have been used by some of the builders who would prefer "store-bought" plans rather than designing their own.

Henry Arnold

Arnold assisted Rommerdall in many of his projects, doing the brick front for the MacIntyre Building at 103 South Broad Street (now Fran's Ice Cream Parlor, formerly Massey Drugs) in 1885.² Later, in June of that year, he did the brick front for the Steyerma Building, next door to the MacIntyre.³ (The Steyerma Building still stands, now housing

the Cocroft Music Company at 105 South Broad Street). Later that summer Arnold started the Jerger Building, which had an iron-and-glass front⁴ and was identical to the Bower Building next door (now Betti Eclectic Gifts at 128 South Broad Street), which still stands, as does Jerger Jewelers at 130 South Broad Street. He married Mamie Niblo of Brunswick in 1886 and moved there. Later, he returned and became a well-known contractor until his death in 1941.⁵

J.W. Brinn

Brinn won the contract for the new railroad depot in September of 1885, having already constructed a number of depots for the Savannah, Florida & Western Railroad. The depot was finished in early 1886,⁶ but it has since been demolished. [See Illustration 117.]

Charles W. Chase

Chase was born in New Hampshire in 1830 and, with his New York-born wife, Elizabeth, was living in Thomasville as early as 1884, having lived in Cedartown, Georgia, in 1880.⁷ He was in charge of the woodwork construction when the Mitchell Hotel was rebuilt in May of 1884, at which time he was spoken of as being "among the best builders in the state."⁸ He later joined Nat S. Eaves in founding a contracting firm, since Eaves' specialty was brick masonry and Chase's was woodwork.⁹ In the 1886 directory, Chase was listed as a carpenter and builder.¹⁰ [See the appendices for listings of those persons in the architectural and building trades in Webb's Thomasville Directory for 1886.] Chase is not

to be confused with a contemporary of his, C.M. Chase, manager of the skating rink in Thomasville in 1886.

James G. Dekle

Although research has not uncovered any mention of buildings being attributed to Dekle, he placed one of the rare building advertisements in the 1886 directory. In this, Dekle styled himself as a "Carpenter and builder. All work guaranteed First-Class."¹¹

Nat S. Eaves

Eaves was born ca. 1828 in South Carolina and was living with his wife, Ursula, in Cartersville, Bartow County, Georgia, in 1880.¹² He and his sons, Jud (born 1857) and Rufus (born 1861), were extremely active in Thomasville during this period. In 1885, Eaves moved to Thomasville,¹³ but he and his sons kept their ties in Cartersville, where relatives still reside.¹⁴ The Eaves family contributed the following known works:

(1) The original Mitchell House, which they built, and the second Mitchell House Hotel, which they began rebuilding in April of 1884, under the guidance and following the plans of J.A. Wood of New York. On this project, he was the general contractor and also had a machine which made bricks and was used on-location for the rebuilding.¹⁵

(2) Methodist Church, 425 North Broad Street. The old church structure was rolled away from the site, and Eaves prepared the site for a new building in October of 1884.¹⁶ It is still in use as the First

United Methodist Church.

(3) The residence built for Captain Whitaker of Kentucky on Madison Street. Under contract to Eaves in June of 1884 via the local real estate agent, George Fearn, for Whitaker, who was absent at the time, it was supposed to be ready by the fall.¹⁷

(4) Whitaker's Livery Stables on lower Broad Street. Built in June of 1884, this structure may have been built for the same Whitaker as (3) above.¹⁸

(5) Colonel A.P. Wright's new store on Jackson Street was begun in July of 1884.¹⁹

(6) The Miller residence on Magnolia Road. A contract for \$5,000 to build this house was let in August of 1884.²⁰

(7) L.F. Thompson's new store on Jackson Street was completed in October of 1884. A photograph of this storefront, with its own advertisement for building and household supplies, appeared in the newspaper on a weekly basis for several years. Jud Eaves was apparently more instrumental in this than his father or brother, and his work was complimented as "the most ornamental specimen of brick work ever done in Thomasville."²¹

(8) W.C. Pittman rental houses. Eaves began these in December of 1884 on one lot, formerly the Leben House lot. Since Pittman had a goal of six such houses, one can assume that these were all rather small.²²

(9) Chapel at South Georgia College. Actually an all-purpose building for classrooms as well as a chapel, the plans for this structure were done by J.A. Wood, while Eaves executed them. Opened in the spring of 1886, this magnificent building was recently demolished,²³

having served as the Fletcherville School before its destruction.

(10) Masury Hotel extension. In June of 1888, Eaves was involved with this effort along with William Miller and others. Eaves and Chase were advertising jointly in the newspaper at this time.²⁴

(11) The Frank Spain residence, near Quitman, Georgia, was begun in May of 1885, with Eaves supposedly being the architect and builder of this project. The home was considered "elegant."²⁵

(12) The T.C. Mitchell residence at the corner of Remington Avenue and Dawson Street, home of the owner of the Mitchell Hotel, was designed by J.A. Wood of New York and the plans were executed by Eaves. The newspaper considered it the "handsomest private residence" in town at the time of its completion in the fall of 1885. It served as a youth center at the time of its destruction.²⁶

(13) The Horace Thompson residence at 805 South Broad Street was contracted in July of 1885 to be built by Eaves for Thompson, who was a winter resident of Thomasville from St. Paul, Minnesota. The home, which was to be ready for occupancy by the winter season, is still standing.²⁷

(14) The Mitchell House piazza and its three-story addition were undertaken by Eaves in August of 1885 to adorn the park side of the Mitchell House. Considered a "whopper," this project was completed with Chase assisting with the carpentry work.²⁸

(15) D.B. Paxton rental property. Paxton, a turpentine, contracted with Eaves in August of 1885 to construct two five-room dwellings on Calhoun Street.²⁹

(16) The gas works in Thomasville was contracted to Eaves in September of 1885 for the brick work only. By this time, he had a brickyard outside the town's corporate limits on the Duncanville Road which

produced 25,000 bricks per day.³¹

(17) The 20-room Parnell residence was to be built opposite the depot and constructed of brick. Construction was begun in October of 1886.³²

(18) W.C. Pittman store. The Eaves brothers, Jud and Rufus, were contracted in March of 1887 to erect a handsome, two-story brick store for Pittman adjoining the upper-story brick store of Mrs. E.H. Smith opposite the Mitchell House.³³

(19) Sam Jones Female College in Cartersville, Georgia. This contract was awarded to the Eaves brothers in March of 1887 for this work in their hometown.³⁴

(20) Renovation of the Thomas County Courthouse was contracted to Eaves and Chase in August of 1887 for \$10,587. The plans for this project had been drawn up by Gustave Leo, an Atlanta architect.³⁵

(21) The Presbyterian Church on Jackson Street. Eaves and Chase landed this \$10,000 contract in February of 1888 to build a church with a seating capacity of 375.³⁶ It is still in use as the First Presbyterian Church.

According to descendants, the Eaves were also active in building at Copperhill, Tennessee, where they constructed the Tennessee Copper Company building, and also at Woodstock, Calhoun and Taylorsville, Georgia. In the former, stores remain that they built, and in the latter, a warehouse remains. In and around Cartersville, the Goodyear Tire Company building (formerly the American Textile Company), as well as the Sam Jones Memorial Methodist Church building are attributed to them.³⁷

Ben D. Fudge

During the rebuilding of the Mitchell House Hotel in October of 1884, Fudge was in charge of the roofing for the new tin roof.³⁸ He was probably in charge of many, if not all, such efforts in the city during these years, as he appears to be the only one mentioned in the newspaper.

John Z. Gottwals

John Ziegler Gottwals (1828-1911) was a Pennsylvania native who, according to his family, first came to Thomasville about 1883 from Pittsburgh. His daughter married in Thomasville Charles B. Quinn in 1885. Family members attribute to him the workmanship on the structure they lived in at the corner of Clay and Hardaway streets [see Rommerdall section under Ballowe-Quinn House] as well as the carpentry work at the Lapham-Patterson House.

Having owned bookstores in Pennsylvania, Gottwals began to "read" architecture and thereby gained his training in the field. After leaving Thomasville, he moved to Highlands, North Carolina, where he died and is buried. The home he built there is still standing and has many similarities, especially in the interior carpentry work, to the Lapham-Patterson House. Books on architecture from his library were given by the family to Charles Fant, Sr. of Anderson, South Carolina. The Gottwals brothers, photographers in Thomasville, were his nephews. Unfortunately, he is not mentioned in the Thomasville newspaper of the period, but if he worked with Rommerdall, he may have left after Rommerdall's death in 1887.³⁹

James Gribben, Sr.

The progenitor of a family whose members still reside in Thomasville, Gribben married Lilla E. Ramsey there in December of 1885.⁴⁰ During the previous summer, he had been in business with Harry Levick for the woodwork on the Steyerman Building (now Cocroft Music Company at 105 South Broad Street),⁴¹ and the firm of Gribben and Levick was in business in May of 1888. The partners had contracted during this time for the W.H. Mitchell residence at the corner of Remington Avenue and Dawson Street, to be two stories in height and 46 x 90 feet.⁴² A year later, in May of 1889, they were under contract for the new Episcopal church at 216 Remington Avenue, now St. Thomas' Episcopal Church.⁴³

In the 1886 directory, Gribben had styled himself a carpenter and builder, as did Levick.⁴⁴ Harry Levick moved to Tampa, Florida, by 1895, where his home still stands.⁴⁵

J.W. Gunn

When the town's citizens had finally decided on the building of the opera house, J.W. Gunn, described as an "Atlanta Architect," drew up the plans in the spring of 1888. Actually, the skating rink was converted into the opera house. Nothing further is known of Gunn, and research in Atlanta has failed to yield any additional information.⁴⁶

Jake S. Kneller (Kniller)

Kneller, born in 1840 in Washington, D.C., was living in 1880 with his wife and family near Dupont, Clinch County, Georgia.⁴⁷ By 1884, he

was in Thomasville running Kneller and Company, a planing mill.⁴⁸ He and his partner, W.P. Lake, with whom he split in October of 1884,⁴⁹ built the following structures:

(1) Captain W.G. Waller's residence on Wyche Street, called a "cozy" house, was begun in April of 1884 on the McLendon Purchase.⁵⁰

(2) Piney Woods Hotel. The door facings and woodwork for this hotel were under contract in May of 1884 to Kneller and Company.⁵¹

(3) Kneller, in addition to running the planing mill, also was contracting to build private homes by May of 1884, but in May of the following year, he sold his own residence to R.L. Day of Boston, Massachusetts. Kneller moved to Remington Avenue, and after this date, nothing further is known of him.⁵²

Gustave E. Leo

Gustave E. Leo (1837-1892), a native of Woldenberg, Germany, was an Atlanta architect who provided the plans for the renovation of the Thomas County courthouse in May of 1886. Earlier that same year, he had designed the J.L. Hand home in Pelham, Georgia, which was destroyed in 1971. In Atlanta, where Leo had arrived in 1879, he had remodeled the DeGive's Opera House in 1882 and is known to have done the Atlanta Brewery. Both have now been demolished. Leo died in Atlanta and is buried in Oakland Cemetery.⁵³

Joseph M. Mayo

Mayo first comes to light in the building programs of Thomasville in August of 1885, when he was mentioned as having a building contract

for the handsome residence of Jessie Stringer at Washington and Dawson streets.⁵⁴ He continued as a general contractor, as well as specifically a carpenter, for the next several years, marrying Annie May Carroll in June of 1886.⁵⁵ The couple's first child is buried at Laurel Hill, having died in September of 1888,⁵⁶ but since no other member of the Mayo family is buried there, it is presumed that they moved elsewhere.

It was in 1888 that Mayo left perhaps his most significant achievement in the county, the alterations on "Elsoma," the plantation that had recently been purchased by J. Wyman Jones.⁵⁷ A list of his known contributions in Thomasville and the county include:

(1) The Jessie Stringer residence mentioned above, which was begun in August of 1885. Stringer was a salesman for H.R. Cooke and Bro.⁵⁸

(2) The John Lewis residence on Smith Avenue. Mayo built this structure in three weeks, and the five-room residence received notice in the newspaper for its rapid construction.⁵⁹

(3) Begun in January of 1886 for the local tin-roofer, the Ben D. Fudge residence at 710 North Dawson Street is still standing, having taken Mayo about two months to complete.⁶⁰ The Fudge home was to be two stories in height, 40 feet fronting on Dawson Street and extending back for 32 feet. It comprised eight 14-x-16-foot rooms, an 8-x-32-foot hallway, and an 8-x-36-foot veranda in front.

(4) "Elsoma" improvements were done in 1888. This plantation had recently been purchased by J. Wyman Jones, who hired Mayo to do the alterations. A more recent structure occupies this site today.⁶¹

Alexander Miller

Miller first appeared in Thomasville in the 1886 directory as a carpenter.⁶² Later joined by William Miller, presumed to be his brother, both made substantial contributions to the building program in Thomasville. The only work directly attributed to Miller during this period is Cleveland Park, the estate of John W. Masury in the county. In constructing this house, Miller headed a crew of 30 workmen⁶³ in 1888 after the death of Tudor Rommerdall.

William Miller

A native of Newtownards, near Belfast, Northern Ireland, where he was born in 1860,⁶⁴ Miller moved to Canada with his parents shortly thereafter.⁶⁵ He is said to have told James G. Patterson, then owner of the Lapham-Patterson House, that he had done the work on the floors in the home on Dawson Street. To have been there for the building of the house, Miller would have had to arrive in Thomasville in late 1884 or early 1885. He may have referred to later improvements or repairs to the house, since he is not listed in the 1886 directory as being in the building trades.⁶⁶

Although the Miller brothers had been in town for almost two years at the time of the death of Tudor Rommerdall in December of 1887, it was not until after his death that they are mentioned in their own right. As mentioned above, Alexander Miller continued the work at Cleveland Park for Masury, and William picked up the contract on the Masury Building (the hotel) only a few weeks after Rommerdall's death,⁶⁷ as well as the 1888 addition.⁶⁸ He also was given the contract to build the

palatial residence for Selah Reeve VanDuzer of Newburgh, New York, in June of 1888.⁶⁹ The plans for this home, which has since been destroyed, were drawn up by VanDuzer's architect in New York, although they may have been suggested by Miller.

Miller was obviously involved with these major buildings at the onset of his personal career as a general contractor, being referred to as an "excellent workman and gentleman of large experience in building,"⁷⁰ but he must have been a man of great skill prior to this time to have assumed such duties so rapidly in the void created by the death of Rommerdall. Then 27 years of age, Miller purchased a lot from the Rommerdall estate in 1889,⁷¹ possibly even the home of Rommerdall, and he later built a home of his own in Thomasville.⁷² Yet it was not his building skills that were remembered at his death. His long obituary cites his interest in "Tidiness and beautification," with emphasis on his concerted plan for a beautification program for the city. Under the direction and financial support of Justus Strawbridge, he planted oaks along the streets. Apparently he also planted many trees on private property with the owners' consent to help beautify the city, as well as the dogwoods along Dawson Street, those being from Patterson's farm.⁷³ The courthouse grounds are attributed to him, especially the trees planted to honor President McKinley's visit in 1899. Certainly, the "City of Roses" owes a great deal to William Miller, both in its buildings, as well as the beauty of the city. At his death in 1936, his family included his second wife and four children.⁷⁴

Charles Poland

Poland, although not listed in the 1886 directory, had already done the graining on the Palace Store in August of 1885 and was commissioned in August of the following year as "the accomplished painter" to paint and grain the store of S.J. Cassels.⁷⁵ Nothing else is known of this man.

Captain Pierre N. Raynal

Raynal styled himself in the 1886 directory as a "cabinetmaker and upholsterer/specialty/architecture and drawings." Like most of the other persons in the building trades at the time, he was quite versatile. He is considered to be the architect of the Steyerma Building (now Cocroft Music Company), begun in July of 1885, with Arnold doing the brick and plaster work and Levick and Gribben doing the woodwork. Although no other major works have been attributed to Raynal in the newspapers searched for this period, the court records indicate he was still in Thomasville in December of 1886, listing his possessions of value as his tools, work board and books. At that time, he had a wife, R.A., and a minor son, C.E. Nothing further is known of him.⁷⁶

J.S. Salmons

Salmons was in Thomasville as early as 1884, when one of his children died. He has few works attributed to him, although he was apparently the "well known builder and contractor" who was in charge of the building of real estate agent George Fearn's skating rink in May of 1885.

In February of 1886, Salmons also applied for a tax exemption, listing his possessions of value as his carpenter's tools. His family consisted of his wife and a minor son, James, who was five months old.⁷⁷ Since the Salmons infant, who died in 1884, is buried on a lot alone, it can be assumed that the family moved from Thomasville some time later, perhaps in order to further Salmons' career.

The Stallings Brothers of Augusta

These men, described as "young" in one account, flourished in Thomasville in 1885, primarily doing auxillary work on other structures. To them are attributed the stone work on the Jerger Building (still operating as Jerger Jewelers) and the adjoining Bower Building (also still standing), as well as that on the T.C. Mitchell House on Remington Avenue, designed by J.A. Wood and constructed by Nat S. Eaves.

In October of 1885, W.H. Stallings, "contractor and Builder of Augusta," had moved to Thomasville with his family to make his home there, as so many contractors had done before him, including Rommerdall and Eaves. W.H. Stallings appears as a contractor and builder, as well as a carpenter, in the 1886 directory, while Francis M. Stallings appears as a carpenter.⁷⁸

W.W. Thomas

Thomas, of Athens, Georgia, provided the plans for the Presbyterian church in June of 1887, which was later built by Eaves and Chase and is still standing as the First Presbyterian Church on Jackson Street.⁷⁹

J.A. Wood

The contributions to Thomasville by John A. Wood, whose career prospered from 1866 through 1892, have almost all been totally destroyed. His earliest known association with the town was in the design of the Piney Woods Hotel, begun after the first Mitchell House Hotel burned in August of 1883. He was called upon in the fall of 1883 to prepare plans and supervise the construction of the Piney Woods.⁸⁰ Despite his other works in Thomasville, he had a career as an architect rivaled by few others of his era; yet very little is known about him. The following works, first in Thomasville and then elsewhere in Georgia, as well as in other cities outside the state, are attributed to him:

In Thomasville:

(1) The Piney Woods Hotel, opened to the public in January of 1885, was destroyed by fire in 1907.⁸¹

(2) The second Mitchell House Hotel, begun in May of 1884, was opened for business in February of 1886. Wood made monthly visits to Thomasville by train to check on the progress of this structure and his other efforts in Thomasville. Parts of this hotel remain today as part of Neel's Department Store at 101 North Broad Street.⁸²

(3) Jerger Jewelers at 130 South Broad Street, has been in existence locally since 1857 and still occupies the building designed by Wood in April of 1884. It is a three-story brick edifice with an iron-and-glass front. The Bower Building, immediately adjacent at 128 South Broad Street (now Betti Eclectic Gifts) was apparently also his, as they are identical⁸³ [see section above on Henry Arnold].

(4) The T.C. Mitchell residence at the corner of Remington Avenue

and Dawson Street was designed by Wood in May of 1885 and built by Nat Eaves. It is one of the two known private residences attributed to Wood. Mitchell was the owner of the hotel of the same name.⁸⁴ The house was later a youth center before its destruction.

(5) The chapel at South Georgia College (later Fletcherville School) was built by Wood. Now destroyed, this all-purpose college building was a \$10,000 contract for him, which he bid for in February of 1885.⁸⁵

Elsewhere in Georgia

(1) Savannah. Here, Wood submitted plans for the Old DeSoto Hotel, which were not accepted. While in town during 1884 and 1885, however, he built two structures or submitted the plans which were used. Both of these buildings are now gone: Girard's Armory, which burned in 1889, and the building which later served as Adler's Department Store.⁸⁶

(2) Brunswick. Wood designed the Oglethorpe Hotel there, which opened in 1888, similar in design to the Mitchell House and Piney Woods hotels in Thomasville. This hotel, sponsored by the Jekyll Island Club, was demolished in 1958.⁸⁷ In this city, Wood also provided the architectural plans for the Mahoney-McGarvey House there, ca. 1891. The plans still exist, as does the house at 1709 Reynolds Street, now site of an interior-decorating firm.⁸⁸

Throughout the Nation

(1) Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York. This area, which may have been Wood's home area, is where his earliest known works are located. In 1866, he built Avery Hall for Matthew Vassar on the campus, begun in 1861. Wood is also known to have built the Alms House (1868-69), the Vassar Brothers Home for Aged Men (1880), and the Vassar

Brothers Institute (1882).⁸⁹ Several students and faculty members at the college have done research on Wood, but no comprehensive study has been made of all his works.

(2) The Grand Union Hotel at Saratoga Springs, New York. There is some controversy as to whether Wood actually did this building or not. These springs were the most fabulous resort in the nation in the late 19th Century, and there were numerous hotels in the area.⁹⁰

(3) Tampa Bay Hotel (now the University of Tampa). Wood apparently worked for the Plant Railroad System and was architect for this hotel, which opened in 1891.⁹¹ It was considered one of the most fabulous ones ever built, incorporating a great deal of Moorish detail in its design.

(4) Hillsborough County courthouse, Tampa, Florida. Wood was awarded the contract for this in June of 1891 and completed it in 1892. This also had the Moorish influence evident in its design. It has since been destroyed.⁹²

(5) DeSoto Hotel of Tampa. Wood designed this hotel, built in 1892-93, again with Moorish features. It was renovated later and enlarged.⁹³ Destroyed around 1950.

(6) Works in Kingston, New York (1870-75). The following have been discovered from researching the newspapers of the period in this town, located near Vassar College: a church, alms house, Sunday school building, Overlook Mountain House, the armory, industrial home for children, the Loughram House, now part of the Senate House Museum. Also discovered were several plans of Wood that appeared in A.J. Bicknell's Wooden and Brick Buildings with Details, Vol. II, New York, 1875, which includes designs for a three-story storefront and a stable.⁹⁴

(7) Newburgh, New York. Another nearby town, Wood designed the Free Library here in 1876.⁹⁵

(8) Two additional hotels were designed in New York State. From the New York Times of 1881 comes the report that Wood was the architect for the "Mizzen Top" on Quaker Hill in Dutchess County and the Summitt Mountain House in the Catskills on the Ulster-Delaware county line.⁹⁶

Wood lived in Poughkeepsie from 1866-1872 and in the 1880s his office was at 76 Chambers Street in New York City. Although he was not a member of the American Institute of Architects,⁹⁷ he was apparently extremely concerned with his quality of architecture and had the following comment to make to The Thomasville Times in 1886:

76 Chambers St., New York.
February 2nd, 1886.

Editor Times:

Dear Sir. -- Please correct the statement in Saturday's Times that the 'Piney Woods Hotel is built in the Queen Anne style.' Neither the Piney Woods nor any other hotel that I have ever designed is in that beastly style, which is at best no style at all, but a simple bosh, or what printers call pie. No architect with any knowledge of harmony of design, proportions, or beauty of outline ever stoops to disgrace the landscape with so called Queen Anne productions. -- It is the clown and buffoon of architecture adopted and used by the indolent and ignorant and the ignorant-amuses in our business, and is utterly unworthy of any industrious or intelligent man or woman, and is only calculated to attract attention by its incongruities and lack of everything that belongs to convenience, comfort and beauty. If the Piney Woods combines all these last qualities it is Queen Anne.

Respectfully yours,
J.A. WOOD,
Architect Piney Woods, Mitchell House and So. Ga. College.⁹⁸

It is hoped that the renewed interest in J.A. Wood and his works will generate more information on this architect.

A list of other builders and tradesmen in the town of Thomasville who appear in the 1886 directory by Webb will be found in the appendix of this paper. Most of these were not found mentioned in the newspapers for the period covered by this chapter, and, therefore, all that is known about them is the identification mentioned in the directory.

FOOTNOTES

Chapter 3Builders in Thomasville: 1884-1888

- 1 The Thomasville Times, August 11, 1888, p. 3, c. 3. No copy of this book has been located in the Library of Congress or elsewhere.
- 2 Ibid., May 16, 1885, p. 3, c. 5.
- 3 Ibid., June 6, 1885, p. 3, c. 2.
- 4 Ibid., August 29, 1885, p. 3, c. 3.
- 5 Obituary of Henry Arnold (1862-1941), January 16, 1941, Elizabeth Hopkins Collection, on microfilm at the Georgia Archives.
- 6 The Thomasville Times, September 26, 1885, p. 3, c. 4; and January 23, 1886, p. 3, c. 3.
- 7 1880 Census of Georgia, Polk County, Georgia, Vol. 19, E.D. 170, Sheet 5, Line 27.
- 8 The Thomasville Times, May 24, 1884, p. 3, c. 1.
- 9 Ibid., June 30, 1888, p. 4, c. 7; joint advertisement.
- 10 Webb's Thomasville Directory (1886), p. 41.
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 1880 Census of Georgia, Bartow County, Georgia, Vol. 1, E.D. 1, Sheet 9, Line 39.
- 13 The Thomasville Times, January 31, 1885, p. 3, c. 4.
- 14 Telephone interview with Judson O. Eaves of Atlanta, grandson of Nat S. Eaves, May 4, 1977, by the author.
- 15 The Thomasville Times, January 19, 1884, p. 3, c. 5; April 5, 1884, p. 3, c. 2, "The Mitchell House;" April 12, 1884, p. 3, c. 2, for mention of his advertisement to lumber dealers and his advertisement, not cited, and p. 3, c. 3, "The Mitchell House," p. 3, c. 4, for his arrival in town with sons; April 19, 1884, p. 3, c. 6, for brick-making on the location.
- 16 Ibid., October 11, 1884, p. 3, c. 2; actual building of the structure confirmed in February 18, 1888, p. 3, c. 2, "The Presbyterian Church." The church appears with an extra spire on the 1885 bird's-eye-view or panoramic map of the city.

- 17 Ibid., June 14, 1884, p. 3, c. 1.
- 18 Ibid., June 28, 1888, p. 3, c. 4.
- 19 Ibid., July 12, 1884, p. 3, c. 5.
- 20 Ibid., August 16, 1884, p. 3, c. 3.
- 21 Ibid., October 11, 1884, p. 3, c. 3; October 25, 1884, p. 3, c. 4; and observation of the storefront's advertisements in the newspaper.
- 22 Ibid., December 6, 1884, p. 3, c. 1.
- 23 Ibid., February 21, 1885, p. 3, c. 1; May 30, 1885, p. 3, c. 4; advertisement in April 3, 1886, p. 3, c. 4. This building is illustrated in Thomasville (Among the Pines) (1891), p. 18.
- 24 Ibid., June 16, 1888, p. 3, c. 2; June 30, 1888, p. 4, c. 7 (advertisement for Eaves and Chase).
- 25 Ibid., May 23, 1885, p. 3, c. 1.
- 26 Ibid., p. 3, c. 2; July 4, 1885, p. 3, c. 1, about use of artificial stone from Stallings brothers of Augusta; also, August 1, 1885, p. 3, c. 3, completion of the brick work. Telephone interview with Dr. J.W. Reid of Thomasville, a grandson of T.C. Mitchell, by the author on June 28, 1977.
- 27 Ibid., July 4, 1885, p. 3, c. 6.
- 28 Ibid., August 8, 1885, p. 3, c. 5; October 17, 1885, p. 3, c. 5 (to be three stories; basement, 18 x 40 feet; and the piazza, with nine-foot brick walls ornamented with pilasters); and August 29, 1885, p. 3, c. 3 (Chase's reaction to the piazza).
- 29 Ibid., August 29, 1885, p. 3, c. 3.
- 30 Ibid., September 19, 1885, p. 3, c. 2.
- 31 Ibid., p. 3, c. 3, "A Big Industry."
- 32 Ibid., October 16, 1886, p. 3, c. 4.
- 33 Ibid., March 10, 1887, p. 3, c. 3; and July 2, 1887, p. 3, c. 2.
- 34 Ibid.
- 35 Ibid., August 13, 1887, p. 3, c. 3.
- 36 Ibid., February 18, 1888, p. 3, c. 2, "The Presbyterian Church."
- 37 Telephone interview with Judson O. Eaves of Atlanta, grandson of Nat S. Eaves, by the author on May 4, 1977.

- 38 Ibid., October 25, 1884, p. 3, c. 4.
- 39 Interview in March of 1977 by R.M. Willett with Mrs. Donnie Walker of Thomasville, whose late husband was a grandson of Gottwals. Telephone interview with Mrs. Louis S. Horton (nee Quinn) of Anderson, South Carolina, who is a granddaughter of Gottwals, by the author on March 30, 1977. Reading of The Thomasville Times 1884-1888 indicated no information on building by Gottwals. Marriage of his daughter, Annie, to I.C. Reiff was published January 9, 1886, p. 3, c. 5, and this took place at the residence of C.B. Quinn on Madison Street. The house on Clay and Hardaway, called the Ballowe-Quinn House, was not built until later that year, as indicated in the Rommerdall section of this paper. Although said to be a wedding present to the Quinns, who married in 1885, it appears to have been acquired later.
- 40 Ibid., December 19, 1885, p. 3, c. 4.
- 41 Ibid., July 11, 1885, p. 3, c. 3.
- 42 Ibid., May 26, 1888, p. 3, c. 3.
- 43 The Daily Times-Enterprise (daily), Thomasville, Georgia, May 15, 1889, p. 1, c. 2.
- 44 Webb's Directory, pp. 45 and 52 respectively.
- 45 The National Register of Historic Places (1976), p. 146.
- 46 The Thomasville Times, May 17, 1888, p. 3, c. 1; p. 3, c. 2.
- 47 1880 Census of Georgia, Clinch County, Georgia, Vol. 5, E.D. 37, Sheet 9, Line 28.
- 48 The Thomasville Times, advertisements, 1884.
- 49 Ibid., October 25, 1884, p. 3, c. 5.
- 50 Ibid., April 26, 1884, p. 3, c. 3.
- 51 Ibid., May 17, 1884, p. 3, c. 4.
- 52 Ibid., May 24, 1884, p. 3, c. 4; May 2, 1885, p. 3, c. 4.
- 53 Ibid., January 23, 1886, p. 3, c. 5; May 15, 1886, p. 3, c. 5; Sexton's Records, Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta, Georgia; also Elizabeth A.M. Lyon, "Business Buildings in Atlanta: A Study in Urban Growth and Form." Unpublished Ph.d. dissertation at Emory University, Atlanta, 1971. His place of birth is now in Poland.
- 54 Ibid., August 29, 1885, p. 3, c. 5.
- 55 Ibid., June 26, 1886, p. 3, c. 6, "Married."

- 56 Personal inspection of Laurel Hill Cemetery, Thomasville, by the author, tombstone of "Reuben Mayo, son of J.M. and Annie Mayo, May 13, 1887 - September 20, 1888."
- 57 The Thomasville Times, April 14, 1888, p. 3, c. 2.
- 58 Ibid., August 29, 1885, p. 3, c. 5.
- 59 Ibid., November 7, 1885, p. 3, c. 2, "Quick Work."
- 60 Ibid., January 23, 1886, p. 3, c. 2; April 3, 1886, p. 3, c. 1.
- 61 Ibid., April 14, 1888, p. 3, c. 2.
- 62 Webb's Directory, p. 54.
- 63 The Thomasville Times, February 4, 1888, p. 3, c. 5.
- 64 Laurel Hill Cemetery, Thomasville, tombstone of "William Miller December 22, 1860 - March 17, 1936."
- 65 Thomasville Times-Enterprise, March 17, 1936, p. 1, c. 4; p. 4, p. 7 (obituary).
- 66 Ibid., (obituary) and Webb's Directory.
- 67 The Thomasville Times, December 17, 1887, p. 3, c. 1.
- 68 Ibid., April 14, 1888, p. 1, c. 4, "Another Big Hotel."
- 69 Ibid., April 14, 1888, p. 3, c. 3; May 5, 1888, p. 1, c. 6 (plans).
- 70 Ibid., December 17, 1887, p. 3, c. 1.
- 71 Thomas County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deed Book X, p. 815.
- 72 Interview with Clyde Norwood of Thomasville by the author, January of 1977.
- 73 Thomasville Times-Enterprise, March 17, 1936, p. 1, c. 4, and p. 4, c. 7 (obituary); telephone interview with Alice Patterson Stevens of Savannah by the author in May of 1977.
- 74 Rogers, Thomas County, 1865-1900, p. 344.
- 75 The Thomasville Times, August 8, 1888, p. 3, c. 1; August 21, 1886, p. 3, c. 5.
- 76 Webb's Directory, p. 60; The Thomasville Times, July 11, 1885, p. 3, c. 3; Thomas County, Georgia, Exemptions (1874-1895), December 25, 1886.

- 77 The Thomasville Times, May 30, 1885, p. 3, c. 3; Thomas County, Georgia, Exemptions (1874-1895), p. 207, February 23, 1886; personal inspection of Laurel Hill Cemetery, Thomasville, tombstone of "Lizzie, daughter of J.S. and S.F. Salmons, born April 3, 1884, d. July 12, 1884.
- 78 The Thomasville Times, October 10, 1885, p. 3, c. 2; October 24, 1885, p. 3, c. 2; August 29, 1885, p. 3, c. 3; also see footnote 26.
- 79 Ibid., June 11, 1887, p. 3, c. 2.
- 80 Rogers, Thomas County 1865-1900, p. 142. His source is the newspaper for 1883 as well as the promotional booklets on Thomasville and the Piney Woods Hotel.
- 81 Ibid., pp. 143, 147.
- 82 Ibid., pp. 146, 148; and interview with R.M. Willett and tour of Neel's Department Store, formerly the Mitchell House Hotel, by the author.
- 83 The Thomasville Times, April 5, 1884, p. 3, c. 4.
- 84 Ibid., May 23, 1885, p. 3, c. 2.
- 85 Ibid., February 21, 1885, p. 2, c. 3.
- 86 Telephone interview with Connie Laws Stephenson of the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia, on January 18, 1977, by the author.
- 87 The Waycross [Georgia] Journal-Herald, October 14, 1958, "Graceful Old Hotel is Doomed."
- 88 National Register nomination form prepared for the site by Ms. Cheryl L. Dees and Ms. E.P. Golson, submitted January 28, 1977, to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Accompanying this was a photocopy of the plans for the house, which indicate Wood's authorship.
- 89 Letter of September 29, 1975, from Diane Adams, student of Vassar College, to the American Institute of Architects, Washington, D.C. Ms. Adams is supposed to have written a paper on Wood's work at Vassar. Ms. Carolyn Brooks of that campus has also done research, per her letter to the author of April 14, 1977, and a telephone interview.
- 90 James M. Fitch, American Building: The Historical Forces That Shaped It, p. 175; and letter of May 25, 1977, from the Historical Society of Saratoga Springs, New York, to the author.
- 91 The National Register of Historic Places (1976), p. 146; interviews

with museum personnel on the University of Tampa campus; Fitch, American Building, p. 175; Karl Grismer, Tampa: A History of the City, pp. 188-89, 199, 238, 265.

92 Grismer, Tampa, pp. 188-89, 199, 238, 265.

93 Ibid., p. 238.

94 Letter of March 31, 1977, to Ms. Carolyn Brooks from a former student of hers citing research in the Kingston, New York, area. Ms. Brooks is on the faculty of Vassar College.

95 Ibid.

96 New York Times, January 9, 1881, p. 7, c. 3, "New Summer Hotels."

97 Poughkeepsie city directories for 1869-1872, in which he is listed as boarding at various hotels with an office in town. Trow's New York City Directory ... 1885, p. 1915, listed his first name as John, the only source discovered so far for this information; it also indicates that his office was in the city but his home was in Poughkeepsie.

98 The Thomasville Times, February 13, 1886, p. 2, c. 3.

THE APPENDICES

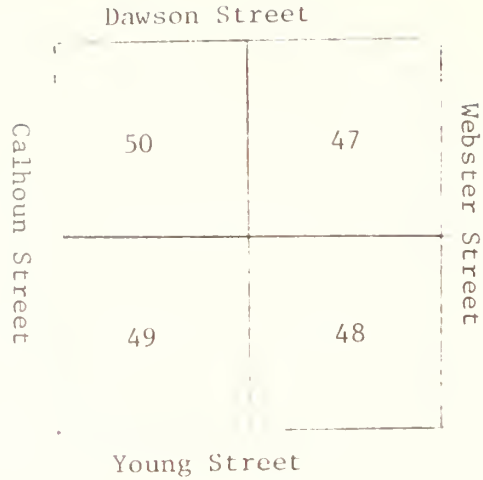
APPENDIX A

The Hackett-Barnes Home
(The Ball Apartments)

In April of 1884, when C.W. Lapham of Chicago purchased the only land he was ever to own in Thomasville, he and Ephraim Hackett of Wabash County, Minnesota, bought two lots for \$1,936.50.¹ Although the newspaper in Thomasville reported that the men purchased the lots, the deeds were recorded later that year in their wives' names and remained that way. It seems strange that these two men, apparently not related and not business partners, acquired the two lots in common. But by owning the title jointly, they were able to rearrange their holdings more to their satisfaction.

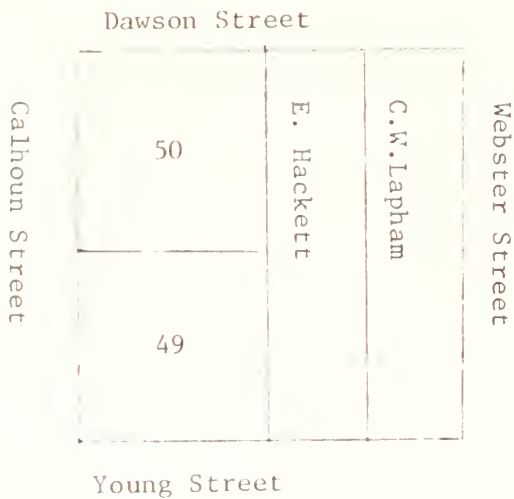
Originally, the two lots, 47 and 48 of Block B-4, Column 3 of the town plan, were on the northwest half of Block 4, one facing only Dawson Street and cornering on Webster, and the other cornering on Webster and facing Young Street. Lapham and Hackett rearranged the lots so that both their lots faced Dawson Street and then ran through to Young Street. This provided them both with access to the main street, with long, thin lots, rather than leaving one of them facing the other street entirely.² [See diagrams on the following page.] A news article indicated that they would build in the fall of 1884.³

Ephraim Hackett was a native of Lempster, New Hampshire, where he was born April 12, 1822,⁴ thus making him 30 years older than C.W. Lapham. He had married Harriet G. Pillsbury in 1852, and the couple had two children: a son living in Kansas City in 1887 and a daughter, Marie J., who became the third wife of Haywood Benjamin Ainsworth on October 20, 1885. The ceremony was held at the Hackett home on Dawson Street,



Block B-4 in
1853 Map of
Thomasville.

Before the
1884 purchase.



Block B-4 in
1853 Map of
Thomasville.

After the 1884
purchase of
lots by Hackett
and Lapham

indicating that the residence was completed by that date.⁵

Hackett's obituary indicated that his occupation in Minnesota was "mercantile pursuits," and that he came to the South ca. 1883 for health reasons. He had been a Congregationalist in Minnesota, and when he was buried in Thomasville after his death on February 25, 1887, both the Episcopal and the Presbyterian ministers in the town performed the service

in the home. Hackett was buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Thomasville with his impressive marker being the only one on the lot.⁶

Marie Hackett Ainsworth was widowed in 1892 when her husband, aged 54, died.⁷ He had operated the livery stables in town, and his home, built 1880-82 just across from the Hackett-Barnes home, is still standing on Dawson Street.⁸ Mrs. Hackett and her daughter, as well as her daughter's only child, Helene, returned to Minneapolis sometime after the death of Ainsworth, and family members recall that Helene never married. Many other Ainsworth relatives remain in Thomasville,⁹ and the H.B. Ainsworth home at 603 North Dawson Street is being restored under the ownership of David and Dale Young.

Less than a month after the death of Ephraim Hackett, his home was sold by Ainsworth to E.H. Barnes of Chicago for \$4,000. Barnes apparently intended it to be his permanent residence, needing a Southern location for his daughter's poor health.¹⁰ Later that fall, the daughter, Mary F. Barnes, advertised:

Miss Barnes'

Kindergarten or Primary School

Will open Sept. 19th, at her home on Dawson Street. The latest methods of object teaching will be taught in a way to interest as well as instruct.

Special care is taken of the little ones.

Terms moderate.

Further information will be given on application to

Mary F. Barnes

Dawson Street

sep3 tf

["sep3 tf" indicates that the advertisement began September 3 and was to run until further notice was given.]

The home remained in the Barnes family until it was sold by Mary's heirs in 1919,¹² when it became the Ball Apartments. It is now owned by Mrs. Leroy B. Edwards, Jr., wife of a grandson of James G. Patterson.¹³

FOOTNOTES

Appendix AThe Hackett-Barnes Home

- ¹ The Thomasville Times, March 29, 1884, p. 3, c. 4; and April 4, 1884, p. 3, c. 6; and Thomas County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deed Book T (1884-1885), p. 19. Deed dated April 3, 1884, and recorded April 7, 1884.
- ² This rearrangement of the property is obvious to the observer comparing the 1853 map of Thomasville in the Surveyor General Department, Atlanta, with the lots as laid out in the fire-insurance map of the Sanborn Insurance Company in 1912.
- ³ The Thomasville Times, April 5, 1884, p. 3, c. 6. The last line of this brief article reads: "They will build this fall."
- ⁴ Ibid., March 5, 1887, p. 3, c. 4, obituary of Ephraim Hackett.
- ⁵ Telephone conversation with Mrs. Robert Walton (May Ainsworth) of Augusta, Ga., on February 1, 1977, concerning the family tree. She is a granddaughter of H.B. Ainsworth, Sr., and indicated that Marie was his third wife and gave his full name. The Thomasville Times, October 24, 1885, p. 3, c. 5, "Married," gives details of the wedding, which is also recorded in Thomas County, Ga., Office of Probate, Marriages Book K, p. 86, for October 20, 1885, license and marriage the same day.
- ⁶ Personal inspection of the grave of Ephraim Hackett on January 27, 1977, Laurel Hill Cemetery, Thomasville, Ga., by the author.
- ⁷ Personal inspection of the grave of H.B. Ainsworth on January 27, 1977, Laurel Hill Cemetery, Thomasville, Ga., by the author.
- ⁸ "Dawson Reverts to a Colorful Era," The Thomasville Courier, January 27, 1977, p. 8; and obituary of H.B. Ainsworth, The Thomasville Times-Enterprise (Daily), January 10, 1892, p. 3, c. 2.
- ⁹ Telephone conversation with Mrs. May Ainsworth Walton [see Footnote 5], on February 1, 1977, by the author.
- ¹⁰ The Thomasville Times, March 19, 1887, p. 3, c. 2; Thomas County, Ga., Superior Court, Deed Book X, p. 616, gives the date of sale as February 11, 1889, from Mrs. Hackett to Mary F. Barnes herself. It is obvious that she moved into the house in 1887, due to her advertisement for the school.
- ¹¹ The Thomasville Times, September 3, 1887, p. 2, c. 3, under "New Advertisements."

- ¹² Thomas County, Ga., Superior Court, Deed Book 3-Q, p. 380 (April 8, 1919), who immediately sold it to H.H. Merry on October 31, 1919.
- ¹³ Telephone interview with Leroy B. Edwards, Jr., of Thomasville, Ga., on August 29, 1977, by the author.

APPENDIX B

Charles W. Lapham Directory Listings

The following information was taken from Chicago Directory listings located at the Chicago Historical Society in Chicago, Illinois:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Home</u>
1871	Listed as clerk only.	
1872-3	No listing for C.W. Lapham; Joseph B. Lapham (Lapham & Waterbury)	475 W. Monroe
1873	985 W. Madison	854 W. Madison [father's home]
1874-75	966 W. Madison	326 Warren Ave. [father's home]
1875-76	741 W. Madison	843 W. Monroe [father's home]
1876-77	741, 865 W. Madison	865 W. Madison [father's]
1877-78	1000 W. Madison	865 W. Madison [father's]
1878-79	1000, 329, 741 W. Madison	865 W. Madison [father's]
1879	329, 737, 1000 W. Madison [According to an advertisement, he has a telephone.]	865 W. Madison [father's]
1880	329, 737, 1000 Madison (Lapham, C.W. & brother)	475 W. Monroe w/Chester E. Lapham and father
1881	329 W. Madison	St. Caroline's Hotel
1882	737 W. Madison	St. Caroline's Hotel
1883	329, 737 W. Madison	St. Caroline's Hotel
1884	329, 737 W. Madison	St. Caroline's Hotel
1885	329 W. Madison	St. Caroline's Hotel
1886	329 W. Madison	St. Caroline's Hotel

1887	329 W. Madison	South Evanston
1888	179 State & 329 W. Madison	South Evanston
1889	179 State	Palmer House
1890	179 State	5127 Hibbard Ave.
1891	179 State	85, 47th (H.P.) [Hyde Park]
1892	179 State	85, 47th (H.P.)
1893	[no business address or occupation listed]	85, 47th (H.P.)
1894	236 Randolph (incubators)	85, 47th (H.P.)
1895	227 Lake (credits)	85, 47th (H.P.)
1896	227 Lake Ave. (credits)	3652 Lake Ave.
1897	306 21 Quincy (manager)	3652 Lake Ave.
1898	real estate	4013 Ellis Ave.
1898	real estate	4013 Ellis
1899	real estate	4013 Ellis
1900	real estate	4013 Ellis
1901	real estate	3865 Lake Ave.
1902	real estate	5534 Cornell Ave.
1903	" "	" " "
1904	real estate	5534 Cornell Ave.
1905	" "	" " "
1906	" "	" " "
1914	[no occupation listed]	1526 E. 53rd St.

Comments in the advertising section of the directories contain further information concerning Lapham's business:

1873	boots and shoes (retail)
1879	Custom and ready made work; telephone communication
1885	boots and shoes (manufacturers, wholesale-retail dealers)

APPENDIX C

The Opera House -- Letters and Editorials

The following is reprinted from The Thomasville Times of February 6, 1886, p. 3, c. 3:

Will Thomasville Build an Opera House?

Below we publish by permission of Mayor Hopkins, a letter from the well known theatrical Manager, Mr. Wm. Emmett, proposing to lease an Opera House in Thomasville. Mr. Emmett is widely known in the theatrical world. He could, and would, bring the first stars of the country to Thomasville, during the season. It was Mr. Emmett who a few years since erected in Chicago, a theatre which is said to be one of the most perfect buildings of the kind on this continent. That Thomasville needs an Opera House goes without saying. The present hall is entirely inadequate to the wants and demands of the public. Here is an opportunity to lease the building at 10 per cent on cost of same. In this connection it is pertinent to add that a prominent and public spirited gentleman has a standing proposition to donate a most eligible lot for an Opera House. We hope some organized action will be taken in the matter. It is of sufficient importance to claim the attention and support of every citizen of the town. Let us have an Opera House, commensurate with the present and prospective growth of the town.

Here is Mr. Emmetts proposition:

THOMASVILLE, GA., Feb. 2, 1886.
Hon. H.W. Hopkins: [Mayor]

RESPECTED SIR -- According to your suggestion I place in writing the following proposition: If your citizens will build an Opera House at a cost of not less than ten thousand dollars to be devoted to the building and furnishing of said Opera House, independent of cost of ground, I will come here and lease the same and pay a yearly rental of one thousand dollars for the first year, said first year's rent I am prepared to pay in advance. -- And now, sir, as I am a practical man in my business my offer should demonstrate to your people that I must have every faith in the success of the enterprise. Should I not return to your city immediately and you wish to communicate with me in reference to

the above my permanent address will be 12 North Roman St.,
New Orleans, La.

In conclusion allow me to subscribe myself yours truly,

WM. EMMETT

The following is reprinted from The Thomasville Times of February
13, 1886, p. 3, c. 5:

That Opera House.

We publish a communication from Mr. C.W. Lapham on this subject in this issue, to which we ask the careful attention of all who are interested in the welfare of our town and its continued progress and improvement. The amount required is small when compared with amounts that have been raised by our citizens for the public welfare in the past, and the profits are assured. It is one of the things which we must have and the opportunity now offered is such as we may not have again in a hurry. We sincerely hope that our businessmen will look out for their interests in this, as they always have in all matters affecting the welfare of the town. We need an Opera House not only for theatrical exhibitions, but there are many public gatherings that can be much better accommodated in a good sized house of that kind than anywhere else, and the need of some such place is constantly felt here. Let us have the Opera House at once.

The following is reprinted from the same issue, same page, column
6:

Mr. Editor: -- I have just read in the newspaper Mr. Wm. Emmett's proposition regarding an "Opera House," to our Mayor, Hon. H.W. Hopkins. Feeling the necessity of such an improvement to our city, I will give the reasons why I think this the proper time for such an enterprise, for the good of our town, knowing that there are many others here who more fully realize its importance than myself. On account of our Northern climate, I have been obliged to spend my winters South for the past fifteen years, and have tried all of the principal winter resorts for health, and I candidly believe our city of Thomasville has many more advantages in this respect than any other place in the South, and as an evidence of that fact I built a permanent winter home here last year, and have never regretted my

choice, although this is our 4th winter here. We have a superb climate, a beautiful city, well located and free from malaria, artesian water, gas, splendid hotels, fine stores, elegant liveries &c., but no Opera House. Hence you can readily see that Thomasville cannot help being a great health resort, but we aim higher and want it to be also a fine pleasure resort. All we need is an Opera House, and a manager like Wm Emmett, who is so widely known to the theatrical world, that he could place us on a par with the large cities, in bringing the best attractions here. Thomasville is indeed very fortunate in being so desirable a health resort as to call here as eminent a man in his profession as Mr. Wm. Emmett, who, coming from the same city as myself, I can more thoroughly appreciate his great ability as a theatrical manager, having seen what wonderful things he accomplished in the most enterprising city on earth, Chicago. Hence I hope the people of Thomasville will not miss this grand opportunity to secure the right kind of an Opera House, with Mr. Wm. Emmett as manager.

Very Truly,

C.W. LAPHAM.

Thomasville, Feb. 6th, 1886.

APPENDIX D

C.W. Lapham and Pleasure Park -- Letters and Articles

The following is taken from The Thomasville Times of April 7, 1888,
p. 3, c. 2-5:

Our Pleasure Park

It is very seldom, in fact almost an exception, where a meeting called for such a purpose, does not meet with some dissenting views, but we are pleased to say that all were unanimously in favor of the grand Park enterprise, and we earnestly hope that the subscription committee will experience no trouble in raising the required funds. It certainly will benefit every citizen of Thomasville, as we are confident that inside of 3 years it will tribble [triple] our Northern guests, over what we might have expected as a natural increase, without the Pleasure Park. Without being extravagant in your ideas, we believe the enterprise, if successfully carried to completion, will be worth as an advertising medium alone, to Thomasville, the amount of money expended. Let our people take hold of it at once.

* * *

Thomasville's Grand Enterprise!

Every Southern Tourist or Health Seeker
in U.S. Will Be Bound to Know Us and Our Resort in the Future

The Pleasure Park.

At a meeting of quite a number of the best citizens of Thomasville, held at the office of Mayor Hopkins, on Tuesday evening, for the purpose of discussing the proposed Pleasure Park, Mayor Hopkins was called to the chair, and W.M. Reese, requested to act as secretary.

Mayor Hopkins read quite an interesting article upon the subject, which appeared in the Times last year, (we will print this article to-morrow), and quite a number of gentlemen gave their views, and all agreed as to the importance of the enterprise, and were unanimous in the opinion that the work should be undertaken at once.

After Mayor Hopkins had read Mr. Lapham's article of a year ago to the meeting Mr. Lapham further said 'much more can be said of Thomasville as a resort relating to this stock Pleasure Park improvement company. It will require about \$10,000, more or less, to put the above Park in splendid order. With that capital we believe we can make it very attractive to the Northern guests as well as our town people, and by charging a very small admittance fee we feel confident that it will be more than self-supporting, so that we can add each year to its attractions and splendor.'

Mr. J. Wyman Jones, a prominent Northern gentleman from Englewood, N.J., who recently purchased the T. MacIntyre place, two miles from here, at the request of the meeting, very kindly gave his views regarding the necessary Park system for Thomasville, also a very interesting talk about Northern and Eastern Parks, and how necessary they were there, where the people have very much more to interest and amuse them than here, where we depend almost entirely upon driving for a source of pleasure and recreation. He very heartily endorsed Mr. Lapham's ideas, in the main, but said that the attractions was one step further than he had given much consideration, but believed it was an admirable idea. He proved, conclusively, to the meeting the great necessity of having splendid drives and felt confident that the Park system was a grand step in the right direction.

Col. A.P. Wright also expressed himself, in his concise and forcible manner, that it was a very practical and essential undertaking and was much pleased that it was going to be put into operation.

Mr. S.L. Hayes could think of nothing that would be of more importance to Thomasville's growth and continued prosperity than the above mentioned Park.

Mayor Hopkins felt certain that it was a grand plan to always keep Thomasville in the foremost ranks as one of the few greatest Southern health and pleasure resorts.

Mr. James Reid was so well satisfied with the feasibility of the splendid undertaking that he suggested that the meeting take immediate steps to form a stock

company.

After further discussion, the following committees were appointed:

On Location -- Hon. H.W. Hopkins, S.L. Hayes and C.W. Lapham.

On Subscription -- J.W. Reid, W.H. Mitchell, C.W. Lapham.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned, subject to call of the President.

H.W. HOPKINS, Chairman
W.M. REESE, Secretary

* * *

Thomasville as a Resort

The following article was published in the Times last year, but as the subject matter to which it relates is now taking definite shape, and as it was read at their late meeting, we reproduce it for consideration. It is good reading.

Editor Times:

Amusements are very important for any place that desires to rank as a pleasure and health resort. The word pleasure means enjoyment, and to enjoy ourselves we are obliged to be amused. A country resort suggests a favorite place where one can be amused. That differs from the indoor amusements of city life. A health resort should combine both health and pleasure to be very popular. Now as friends of Thomasville let us try to look impartially upon the principal advantages and disadvantages of this place as a health resort. It goes without saying that our city should be more largely advertised and given lower railroad rates and better facilities for the traveling public, so that this place may have an equal chance to prove its superior qualities over other resorts that are better known, but have much less real worth to recommend them to health seekers. All who have ever been here, concede that Thomasville is a beautiful southern city, built among the pines, in a fairly high altitude -- an even temperature -- dry and warm in the winter -- good water -- no swamps to breed malaria -- a fine drainage -- elegant hotel accommodations as well as

private board. In fact a splendid healthful climate; in so much that many invalids who have regained their health here are glad to testify to these facts. This and much more can be said of Thomasville's advantages as a health resort. Now we will look to its advantages as a pleasure resort, viz: Delightful drives through the pines; first-class hotels; fine liveries; also good sport for the gentlemen who enjoy hunting.

What More?

This alone might be sufficient if we were in the line of Florida travel like the resorts on the St. Johns river. -- Hence it is indeed wonderful, 'even with the natural davantages [sic] this place posseses [sic],' that we have attained our present prominence as a resort. Now the question arises, what might we have been, and can we not yet occupy the most prominent place in the south as a health and pleasure resort? Yes; by judicious advertising and supplying some of our wants in the line of pleasure. I believe it can be accomplished very easily, if the people of Thomasville can be made to fully realize their opportunity to make their city so conspicuously attractive that it will be a boon to many more thousands of invalids and pleasure seekers and a substantial remuneration to the citizens of this place for their extra pains and trouble. As a commencement in this very essential enterprise, I would recommend the following, which will require you to draw largely on your imagination to better appreciate the popularity and value of the scheme. Fancy, if you please, a beautiful pine woods of from 50 to 100 acres nicely located, a mile or two from town, on a fine drive. Suppose this 50 acres forms an oblong piece of land along the main road drive half a mile and extending back a quarter of a mile from said road. This land to be used as a park and surrounded by a high picket and wire fence, with the top so fixed as to keep inside rabbits, coons, squirrels, etc., besides being sufficiently strong to enclose a herd of deer, cashmere goats and other desirable animals to run at large in a park of this kind. In a suitable place in the grounds have a small fish pond on which would thrive swan, wild geese, fine varieties of ducks, etc. Additions to this park could be made as seemed consistent and best. Now you have the park proper. Again I would suggest that this park be encircled by yards, about 125 feet long by 40 feet wide, which would make from 50 to 75, lots in which would be confined the different varieties of pure bred chickens, turkeys, pea fowls, G. Hens, such as Leghorns, Polands, Cochins and many others. Also in many of the same yards would be high bred cattle, such as Jerseys,

Holsteins and others, with a few Shetland ponies. Have a park driving around the entire grounds just inside of the park fence, so that any wishing to ride around and view the stock and different curiosities could do so. Erect a comfortable and stylish residence or park house at one end of the grounds, containing a ladies' parlor, gentleman's sitting-room, a dining or lunch-room, and a few more essential rooms for the perfect comfort and convenience of the guests who visit the park. A place where could be properly served at any and all hours of the day a nice lunch or a refreshing glass of Jersey milk, lemonade, etc., and in the event of any parties desiring to remain over the dinner hour, they could enjoy a palatable repast. In this house would be many easy chairs, lounges for the comfort of all, and around in the park would be numerous hammocks, swings and seats with a few open tents for those who wished to enjoy the charming climate. Adjoining the house would be a large Aviary containing many of the native Southern birds, the study of which afford the invalid 'as well as others' pleasant and profitable recreations, as it would aid in passing away the long hours of the day which otherwise might be unprofitably spent in brooding over ones illness. Nice and easy riding park wagons, elegantly equipped, would make hourly trips between 'Yankee Paradise' or Thomasville Park and the Country Park, that all who did not prefer a carriage could ride in these park wagons at a moderate cost. Picnic parties could spend the day at the park. I believe every one who came to Thomasville would surely pay the park a visit. The novelty of the attraction (being so different from other park attractions) would forcibly impress the stranger so that Thomasville and its stocked park would be fresh in their memory to compare favorably with other resorts. Invalids, with their friends and relatives, would find the park an agreeable pass-time [sic], relieving their otherwise monotonous life and in many instances it would prolong their stay here. Their descriptive letters regarding our attractions would aid materially in inducing others to come here. Hence it would in the most delightful manner advertise our grand climate. Having been an invalid once, myself, I can more fully realize their wants, and sympathize with them in their afflictions. Having regained my health here, I can but feel it a blessing for those who are afflicted to learn of this place, so as to receive the healing benefits of its climate. I believe that some such enterprise as I have described would soon place Thomasville in the front ranks of the Southern health and pleasure resorts. In aiding such an enterprise we would be benefiting many thousands of invalids and at the same time helping ourselves from the funds which they so willingly

pay in return for the benefits of our health giving climate and the accommodations which they receive.

PROGRESS.

* * *

The following articles and letters were published in the April 14, 1888, edition of The Thomasville Times, p. 1, c. 2, 3; p. 2, c. 3, 4, 5.

The Park Assured.

The meeting yesterday afternoon at Mayor Hopkins office made the park a certainty. Nearly seven thousand dollars cash subscriptions. There was harmony and unity in the meeting. When Thomasville does pull, she pulls all together. The following gentlemen were elected to the positions named:

J. Wyman Jones, President, S.L. Hayes, Vice-President, T.C. Mitchell, Treasury, J.F. Evans, Secretary.

General Managing Committee.

C.W. Lapham, chairman, J.W. Reid, A.P. Wright, W.H. Mitchell, A.T. MacIntyre, Jr. Manager, H.W. Hopkins. This committee was unanimously elected.

Committee on Location.

S.L. Hayes, chairman, W.D. Mitchell, H.W. Hopkins, Joseph Jerger, S.J. Cassels, H.H. Sanford, W.M. Hammond.

Before adjournment thanks were voted to Mr. J. Wyman Jones, and to Mr. C.W. Lapham, for the active and unselfish interest which they have shown in the enterprise. The next meeting will be held on next Monday afternoon at 4:30 p.m., in Mayor Hopkins office.

* * *

The selection of Mr. J. Wyman Jones as President of the Pleasure Park Association was a compliment to that gentleman, and, at the same time, an evidence of the good judgment of the gentlemen who elected him to the responsible position.

* * *

Mr. C.W. Lapham was the happiest man in town yesterday afternoon — the Pleasure Park was a success. Mr. Lapham, by his writings, and constant advocacy of the measure, has contributed, very largely, indeed, to its success.

* * *

That Pleasure Park is just what Thomasville needs. And she will have it. She generally does. Every property holder in the town should lend a helping hand to the enterprise.

* * *

Jim Reid is a hustler when it comes to getting up a subscription for any public enterprise. He raised nearly seven thousand dollars in a few hours for the park.

* * *

Will the Pleasure Park be Self-Supporting?

Noticing the article in the Enterprise of the 12th inst., in which my name is mentioned in connection with the Park, conveying the impression that it is not a paying scheme, yet recommending the lake with boats at Trout Lake as the proper thing to do. It would have given me pleasure to have conversed with this gentleman had his name appeared under his article, as we fully appreciate the necessity of discussing such important matters for Thomasville's future and continued prosperity. As one of the many citizens and guests interested in the best way of advertising and maintaining our city as a noted southern resort, I have studied over this matter during much of my leisure time, for the past three years, and have conscientiously tried to find the weak points. I am simply acting as one of Thomasville's humble servants for her best welfare, with no selfish interests in view.

When the gentleman says that I do not take into consideration the cost of maintaining Lincoln Park, I feel that he is doing me some injustice, as I have lived in large cities and Chicago the majority of my life, and presume to know something about what I am advocating. I have also traveled for my health and recreation for the past twenty

years, and believe I have some knowledge and experience in what our Northern guests desire, although I am far from being immaculate. Our friend gives Thomasville a higher place than we expect when he associates us with New York and Chicago with their Central and Lincoln parks, that are maintained at an extravagant expense, because those cities can afford to pay it, and are maintained for millions of people whose parks are in the main artificial, hence very expensive, yet they charge for the use of their boats.

The citizens of Thomasville do not propose to go beyond their capital. The following are only a few of the prominent citizens who heartily endorse the enterprise: J. Wyman Jones, Col. A.P. Wright, T.C. Mitchell & son, S.L. Hayes, Messrs. McIntyres, Judge Hopkins, Mr. Fearn, James Reid, and many others who are noted for their business ability and conservative judgement. Mr. Masury wants the park much larger, and others will subscribe liberally. It will not be an expensive park, because we will simply enclose a large tract of natural forest, where deer and antelope will roam at large. The park will be encircled by a delightful drive, a comfortable house and aviary and other inexpensive attractions. I can see how a revenue could be derived from the sale of season tickets to those who drive. Restaurant, soda-fountain; base-ball and lawn tennis attractions, museum and art gallery. Single ticket admissions at half the price of blacking one's boots, and free boat rides. I do not think our northern friends will feel insulted when they pay the small sum of 5¢ for the benefit of our drives and attractions and their own amusement. I trust that in future any one who does not fully understand the project will post themselves regarding its merits, before they make adverse criticisms to the public. Regretting very much that I, am in duty to myself, obliged to occupy a prominent position in this matter of controversy before the public.

I remain, yours, &c.,

C.W. LAPHAM.

Since writing this article I have learned the name of the gentleman who criticized our Pleasure Park and believe if he had fully understood matters the article never would have appeared. As all of us have much respect for our northern friend, and know that he is a sincere friend of Thomasville, it is hoped he will be at our next meeting.

L.

* * *

The Park.

Editor of Times:

In my communication to the Enterprise, I had no intention, as Mr. Lapham infers, of criticising Pleasure Park, but to invite attention to what I had not seen mentioned, viz: the cost of maintaining. He is also mistaken in supposing I have not posted myself. Since his communication to the Times a year ago, signed Progress, I have given the matter careful study. All my friends who have stopped here for the last three years, agree that Thomasville has the best roads (I mean those through the woods) of any resort they ever visited. Consequently she has a natural Park of thousands upon thousands of acres extending in every direction.

If inclosing a large tract of land in a 10 feet fence, and keeping it in repair, a comfortable house, etc., will not cost much, my experience in life has gone for naught. To my mind, free boat rides would be on a par with free livery.

The sale of privileges I do not think would give a large revenue, because the class of people who visit here are a different one from those who visit Coney Island and Rocaway [Rockaway]. Three years ago I predicted that Thomasville would become the Newport of the South, and it seems to be gradually being fulfilled. Newport has not seen the want of a park, but she has supplied herself with a want Thomasville very much needs, viz: a Casino.

C.H.M. [Charles H. Macy]

* * *

Mr. C.W. Lapham, whose card appeared in yesterday's Times, requests us to say that he is not opposed, by any means, to Trout Lake improvements, or any other improvements which will add to the attractions of the town; in fact that he is in favor of any or all of them. In the article referred to reference is made to the fact that Mr. Masury favors a large park. It should have been added that, in this case, Mr. Masury would subscribe liberally. Mr. Lapham has taken much interest in the question of getting up amusements and attractive places of resort around Thomasville, and he has the sincere thanks of our citizens for the public spirit shown.

* * *

The following article and letter appeared in the April 21, 1888, edition of The Thomasville Times, p. 1, c. 2; and p. 1, c. 4:

Pleasure Park -- Location Selected.

A meeting of the stock-holders of the Pleasure Park Association was held at the office of mayor Hopkins, on yesterday evening. Forty-two and one-half shares were represented in person.

Col. J. Wyman Jones presided.

Mr. S.L. Hayes, chairman of the committee on location, reported that the committee had examined the locations offered by T.C. Mitchell, J.L. Linton and S. Alex. Smith. The two last were not in such shape as to take action on. On the first, or Mitchell location, they had a definite proposition, but it was deemed best to ask for further time, that the propositions contemplated should be put in shape and other locations examined. Mr. Hansell Merrill was opposed to deferring action, and favored accepting the proposition of Mr. Mitchell. After considerable discussion the question reverted to the proposition of giving the committee on location more time. This was defeated by 24 noes to 18 1-2 yeas. This was an indication that the majority of the stock-holders favored the Mitchell land, and after some discussion, Mr. B.F. Hawkins, Jr., moved that the proposition of Mr. T.C. Mitchell be accepted. This motion was seconded by Hansell Merrill, Esq. The motion was then put and carried by a large majority. Thus, the question of a location is settled, and the Pleasure Park is a fixed fact.

The location is just two miles from town, on the Irwinville road, and between that and the Coffee road. It is to be hoped that the stock holders will at once proceed to put the grounds in shape, fence it in, etc., so that by next season we may have an additional attraction for our northern visitors.

* * *

The Friends of Thomasville's
Driving Park and Zoological Garden.

I regret that I can not be with you at your next meeting, as sickness and business calls me North earlier than

usual. In remaining over I would add only another vote in the already unanimous count in favor of the Pleasure Park so heartily endorsed by the enterprising and liberal citizens of this place. Why endorsed? because we feel that we are about to supply one of Thomasville's most essential necessities (means of diversion and recreation) I hope and feel confident that the good citizens of this place will not let this matter lag. I am going away for a time and could I be of any assistance to you while North I gladly offer you my humble services. In the mean time if there should be any party or parties who would suggest a more feasible plan to advertise and benefit Thomasville, 'her people and guests' I would gladly withdraw my sincere interests in the Park and devote them as heartily to their kind project. As I believe Thomasville people 'however liberal' can not afford to carry to a successful completion more than [than] one such essential project at a time. I assure you that I seek no conspicuous position in this matter; on the contrary desire to avoid one. Not but what your kind compliments are fully appreciated, but my own business and health require me to be very cautious, and not over-do my strength. I am selfish enough to want to live, and among other things enjoy this Park. We sincerely trust that the stockholders will keep in in [sic] mind deciding upon the location that in harmony there is unity, and in unity there is strength, and try to make every vote unanimous [sic]. When the arrangements are perfected it will give me much pleasure to donate to the committee on donations or attractions, for Park purposes, my pet deer, wild goose, and collection of birds, as a beginning or starter on the advertising Gardens and Park. In the near future, should our success be flattering in the extreme, circumstances might possibly allow the stockholders to make the admission to Park free. I trust that the future of this Park may make every stockholder more than proud of his subscription, and that every citizen of Thomasville who is able may enjoy this privilege. Again thanking you for your kind interest in this matter,

I am, yours truly,

C.W. LAPHAM.

* * *

The following article appeared in The Thomasville Times of April 6, 1889, p. 3, c. 5:

'Glen Arven'

Thomasville is being surrounded with handsome suburban improvements and places. Many thousands of dollars are being expended on these places. We have 'Cleveland Park,' Mr. Masury's palatial country place; 'Elsoma,' the beautiful and ornate country home of Mr. J. Wyman Jones; 'Greenwood,' with its magnificent lawn and beautiful surroundings, the late purchase of Mr. S.R. Van Duzer, and other places too numerous to mention. The latest addition to these costly improvements going on around Thomasville is 'Glen Arven,' which embraces what is known as the Seward property, fronting the Monticello road and boulevard. This property was purchased some months ago by Mr. J. Wyman Jones, of Englewood, N.J. A ride through this property yesterday was a revelation. The tract embraces about 240 acres, and everything which money and engineering skill can do, is being done to supplement nature's lavish adornment of the property. Miles and miles of beautifully graded drives have been laid out and finished in the most artistic manner. These pass through and skirt some of the finest natural scenery in this entire section. There is a richness and a variety of natural growth that challenges the admiration at every turn. The lands are gently undulating and are interspersed with natural groves in every direction. An enumeration of some of the growth will give the reader an idea of the variety and natural beauty of the groves. The Magnolia, beach, bay, hickory, pine, live oak, dogwood, holly, poplar and an endless variety of other growth indigenous to the soil, is seen on every hand. And these are interspersed with climbing, clustering vines, natural flowers, the honeysuckle, and a hundred different tinted flowers peeping up all over the landscape. Pausing on an elevation, a sweeping view was had of 'Glen Arven.' Deep green foliage, varying in its rich tints, dotted here and there, purling, murmuring streams, singing on their way to the sea, limpid little lakes, reflecting the nodding flowers growing on their borders, miles of smooth, graded drives, curving and meandering in every direction, deep tangled woods, bordering the streams, a wealth of flowers, perfuming the April morning with their rich aroma, sloping fields, whose fresh soil was being turned up by the ploughman; the whole scene bathing and basking in sunlight, beneath a cloudless sky, made a picture which would challenge the admiration of every true lover of nature.

The proprietor has built a handsome lodge, and will put out, this season, an extensive grove of the renowned

LeConte pear. Whatever money, taste and art can accomplish in beautifying the place, will be used in its adornment. The magic wand of capital has swept over this long neglected property, and lo! the change is wonderful. The proprietor will make many other improvements which, when completed, will make 'Glen Arven' one of the most delightful suburban resorts around Thomasville. The owner hasn't a particle of selfishness in his make-up. He is improving the property for his own amusement, but wants the citizens of the place and our winter visitors to enjoy it with him. To this end the premises will be open to the public on certain days during the week. And this reminds us that the Monticello road leading out to the place, should be put, at the earliest possible day, in first class condition. Take a drive through 'Glen Arven,' and you will be convinced that we have failed to portray the splendid scenery, the natural attractions and the striking improvements being made out there.

APPENDIX E

Abstracts of Tax Digests for Thomasville, Georgia
 (1885-1908; bound volume located in City Clerk's office, Thomasville)

Year, Person Who Paid Taxes	Aggregate Value of Real Estate	Household and Kitchen Furniture	Personal Property	Total Aggregate Value of Property	Tax	Date Signed
1885 C.W. Lapham	\$5,000			\$5,000	\$25	12/8/85 Paid in Person
1886 same	\$6,000	\$1,600	\$400	\$8,000	\$40	12/30/86 same
1887 same	\$6,000	\$1,600	\$400	\$8,000	\$40	1/12/88 same
1888 same	\$7,000	\$1,000	\$600	\$8,600	\$43	signed, no date same
1889 same	\$7,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$9,000	\$45	1/1/90 same
1890 same	\$7,000	\$2,000		\$9,000	\$45	signed, no date same
1891 same	\$7,000	\$2,000		\$9,000	\$45	12/21/91 same
1892 same	\$7,000	\$1,000		\$8,000	\$40	12/27/92 same
1893 Mrs. C.W. Lapham	\$7,000	\$1,000		\$8,000	\$40	12/28/93 same
1894 "J.F." Larmon	\$4,000			\$4,000	\$20	12/22/94 same

1895 Mrs. J.F. Larmon	\$4,000			\$4,000	\$20	signed, no date
1896 H.W. Hop- kins, agt.	\$4,000	\$1,000		\$5,000	\$25	3/23/97 Paid in Person
1897 Not Located						
1898 E.M. Smith, agent	\$4,000	\$1,000		\$5,000	\$25	signed, no date same
1899 same	\$6,000	\$1,000		\$7,000	\$35	signed, no date same
1900 same	\$6,000	\$1,000		\$7,000	\$35	signed, no date same
1901 Mrs. H.E. Larmon	\$5,000	\$1,000		\$6,000	\$30	signed, no date same
1902 same	\$5,000	\$1,000		\$6,000	total \$57*	signed, no date same

end of volume

*The total tax was broken into general tax, \$30; bond tax, \$12; and school tax, \$15. for this year.

Note: It is important to note that these taxes were paid in the winter and usually by the owners themselves, indicating their presence in the city.

APPENDIX F

Abstracts of Tax Digests for 1880-1905, Thomas County, Georgia
[all in the 637 Georgia Militia District]

Year, Agent	Aggregate Value of City or Town Property	Household and Kitchen Furniture	Horses, Mules, etc. [livestock]	Tools, Books, Pictures	Aggregate Value of Whole Property
1880- 1883	No purchases of property by Lapham; thus, no taxes paid, since he was not a legal resident.				
1884*					
1885*					
1886* Wright, A.P.	\$6,000	\$600	\$400	\$1,000	\$8,000
1887 same	\$6,000	\$1,000	\$300	\$1,000	\$8,300
1888 same	\$6,000	\$1,000	\$300	\$1,000	\$8,300
1889 same	\$6,000	\$1,000	All Other Property \$1,000		\$8,000
1890 same	\$6,000	\$1,000	\$1,000		\$8,000
1891 same	\$6,000	\$1,000	\$1,000		\$8,000
1892 same	\$6,000	\$1,000	\$1,000		\$8,000

Year, Agent	Aggregate Value of City or Town Property	Household and Kitchen Furniture	All Other Property	Tools, Books, Pictures	Aggregate Value of Whole Property
1893 Smith, E.M.	\$6,000	\$1,000	\$1,000		\$8,000
1894 Hopkins, H.W., Agt. for James Larmon	\$4,000				\$4,000
1895 same for Mrs. H. Larmon	\$4,000	\$1,000			\$5,000
1896 same	\$4,000				\$4,000
1897 Smith, E.M.; Agt. for Mrs. L.E. [sic] Larmon ^o	\$4,000				\$4,000
1898 same	\$4,000				\$4,000
1899 Smith, Peter; Agt. for Mrs. H.E. Lamer [sic]	\$4,000	\$1,000			\$5,000

^o This is Mrs. Harriet E. Larmon; the misspellings which occur in this and subsequent years strongly suggest that she was not well-known.

Year, Agent	Aggregate Value of City or Town Property	Household and Kitchen Furniture	All Other Property	Tools, Books, Pictures	Aggregate Value of Whole Property
1900 Smith, E.M.; Agt. for Mrs. H.E. Lamar [sic]	\$4,000	\$1,000			\$5,000
1901 same	\$4,000	\$1,000			\$5,000
1902 Smith, Junius, Agt.	\$4,000	\$1,000			\$5,000
1903 Smith, E.M.: Agt. for H.E. Lama [sic]	\$4,000	\$1,000			\$5,000
1904 Smith, E.M.: Agt. for Mrs. H.E. Larman [sic]	\$5,000	\$500			\$5,500
1905 Patter- son, J.G.	\$5,000	\$1,000			\$6,180 plus poll tax
	Plus: watches - \$10, horses - \$120, carriages - \$50				

* State of Georgia, Department of Revenue copy for Thomas County, Georgia, 1884; bound, 1884-1886, at Georgia Department of Archives and History. Other digests bound individually for each year at Georgia Department of Archives and History. For these and subsequent years, the agents are for C.W. Lapham, unless otherwise noted.

APPENDIX G

Distribution of Furniture of the Patterson Estate[100] to Alice Scarborough:

dining room suite	dining room
rug	dining room
brass bedstead with dresser	middle room
washstand	
single iron bedstead with pillows	
and mattress	
feather bed	company room
hair mattress and bolster on brass	
bed	papa's room
piano and covers for it	
glass candlesticks on mantel	parlor
cane table with vase	
table	father's room
upholstered rocker	parlor
furniture with velvet cushion	front hall
brass lamp	third-story chest
rocker	back room
2 cane chairs	parlor
2 straight back chairs	back room
1 wool blanket	chest
table rolling pin and marble slab	
small size yellow bowl	
picture	parlor
refrigerator	china closet
woodbox and fender	middle room upstairs
glass mirror	middle room upstairs
large size linen tablecloth with	
napkins to match table pad	
large wardrobe	papa's closet
marble top table	company room upstairs
looking glass	middle room
washstand	room over sitting room

[100] to daughter, Clyde Fleming

single suit of furniture, bedstead,	
dresser, washstand, table, pitcher	
and bowl	father's room
cane rocker	sitting room
looking glass	parlor
picture	front parlor
living room suite	parlor
marble top table	

vase on piano
 hamper
 sewing machine
 rocker
 luncheon set
 blanket
 settee
 refrigerator
 woodbox and fender
 picture, "Helping Hand"

To daughter Leila Edwards

library table
 tea table
 bookcase and pictures
 brass tongs and shovel set
 feather sofa pillow
 dark oak suit of furniture,
 bedstead, dresser, washstand,
 pitcher and bowl
 oval table
 heavy wool blanket
 hemstitched tablecloth and napkins
 bread tray
 wash pot
 iron bedstead and wool mattress
 cane rocker
 picture left of piano
 rocker
 china on tea table and on brackets
 chest

[100] Son, S.B. Patterson

suit of furniture
 bedstead, bed, dresser, washstand
 table with lamp
 4 chairs and 1 rocker
 picture over piano
 set of pillows
 hair mattress
 blanket
 quilt
 brass candlesticks
 1 vase on piano
 new set of knives and forks
 rug

To Son, T.A. Patterson

light suit of furniture, bedstead,
 dresser, washstand and table
 father's chair

Dollie's room

back room

chest upstairs
 front porch
 breakfast room
 father's room
 sitting room

library

library

middle room upstairs
 bathroom

back room
 parlor
 parlor
 back room
 dining room [divided equally by
 Dollie's room all children]

guest room over parlor

room next to the driveway

in sideboard, dining room
 papa's room

brown upholstered chair	parlor
light straight cane chair	
father's desk and chair	
1 settee	front porch
quilt	
1 vase on mantelpiece	parlor
mattress, set of pillows and blanket	
wash pot	
2 rockers	father's room
2 straight back chairs	
fender for fireplace	
bottom mattress	room over the living room next to the driveway

To Son, J.L. Patterson

Bedroom furniture	room upstairs over the living room next to driveway
father's grandfather's and mother's picture	
morris chair	sitting room
cane chair	front hall
4 chairs	room with bedroom furniture
featherbed	middle room
2 pillows	
knit counterpane [bedspread]	
blanket	
garden plough	
wash pot	
sofa pillow with slip with cover	parlor
rubber sheet	
tablecloth	
little center linen piece	
swing	porch
vase on mantel	parlor
3 pictures	parlor
fender	
wood box	
new top mattress on brass bedstead	
family Bible	
table	middle room
upholstered leather chair	breakfast room

To Vela (wife of T.A. Patterson), Stoddard's set of books

Remainder held jointly.

APPENDIX II

Weddings

The following is taken from The Thomasville Times-Enterprise of November 6, 1913, p. 3, c. 3:

Beautiful Home Wedding

The Marriage of Miss Leila Patterson and Mr. Edwards,
of North Carolina, Interesting Event of Yesterday.

A very beautiful home wedding here yesterday was that of Miss Leila Patterson and Mr. Leroy Edwards, of Wilmington, N.C., which took place at high noon at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Patterson, on North Dawson Street.

Pink and green was the color motif for the decorations used thru-out the house. Palms and ferns were effectively massed for a background for quantities of beautiful pink flowers. In the front parlor, where the ceremony was performed, the bridal couple stood under an arch of green, studded with pink flowers.

To the music of Mendellsohn's [sic] Wedding March, played by Miss Hallie Covington, the bridal party entered the room. The maid of honor, Miss Alice Patterson, came in first, preceding the bride, who entered with her father, Mr. James G. Patterson, and was met by the groom with his best man, Mr. C.L. Walker, of Wilmington, N.C. The marriage ceremony was impressively performed by Rev. Archie McLaughlin, of Camilla. During the ceremony, Miss Covington played very softly, 'The Melody of Love.'

The bride wore her going-away gown, a handsome dark blue tailored suit, with hat to match. Her bouquet was of lilies of the valley, and bride's roses.

The maid of honor was charmingly gowned in pink crepe meteor with drapery and bodice of lace, embroidered with pearls. She carried a bouquet of pink carnations.

Luncheon was served after the ceremony, the table being lovely with its decorations of green and pink.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards left on the 2:05 train for a short bridal trip, after which they will make their home in Wilmington.

The bride is the lovely young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James G. Patterson and is popular with a large circle of friends and admirers. The groom is among the prominent young business men of Wilmington.

The number of handsome presents received by the young couple attested to their popularity.

The following is taken from The Thomasville Times-Enterprise of August 14, 1919, p. 5, c. 3:

Wedding Occurred Today of Popular
Young Couple. -- To Make Their Home in Panama

A wedding of unusual local interest took place this afternoon at two-thirty o'clock when Miss Alice Martha Patterson became the bride of Mr. William Whitfield Scarborough at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J.G. Patterson on North Dawson street. The wedding was witnessed only by a few friends and the family, the ceremony being performed by Rev. R.S. Sanders of the Presbyterian church. The bride was becomingly attired in a midnight blue coat suit and accessories to match.

Immediately after the ceremony they left on the Coast Line for Savannah, Washington and New York for a short visit. They will sail from New York for Panama within a few days, Mr. Scarborough, being in charge of a very important part of the government Y.M.C.A. work in the Canal Zone.

Mrs. Scarborough, as Miss Patterson, was a very popular and charming young woman of this city, having been here with her parents since childhood. Mr. Scarborough was at one time Y.M.C.A. Secretary here. He went to France with the forces of Uncle Sam, coming all the way from Panama to join the local contingent. Both have the hearty good wishes of many warm friends and admirers in this city.

APPENDIX I

National Landmarks Statement

The following form was submitted to the National Historic Landmarks Office, National Park Service, by the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, or its predecessor, the Georgia Historical Commission, when the Lapham-Patterson House was being surveyed for landmark status. The form, submitted ca. 1972, indicates the lack of knowledge at that time which has been supplemented by the present research report.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory - Nomination Form

National Landmarks Statement of Architectural Significance
Lapham-Patterson House, Thomasville

During the High Victorian 1880's when Thomasville, Georgia, became a fashionable winter resort, this three-story mansion was built as the resort home of Chicago shoe manufacturer, C.W. Lapham. Very little is known about who was responsible for design and construction, but the house speaks for itself as an unusually individualistic and vivid record of the taste of an era when people attempted to out-do one another in the creativity brought to the eclectic, picturesque and romantic resort cottage. A consultant to the local landmarks committee described the house in this way:

[It is] the most exuberant and daring Victorian mansion in Thomasville and is a challenge to all others in the state. Innovative in form, detail, and construction, it is complete in every detail including an iron fence and front gate. An architectural tour-de-force.

Because of its evident uniqueness, yet representative 'Victorianess' and good state of preservation, the Lapham-Patterson House is presently being readied to serve as a state-owned museum of the era when Thomasville was a Gay Nineties health resort.

C.W. Lapham's connection with the City of Chicago suggests an interesting speculation about the innovative quality of the plan and form. Could it be due to a degree of exposure to the work of Louis Sullivan, H.H. Richardson and others who experimented with domestic architecture in that city? No other High Victorian period house in Georgia is quite so forward looking, especially in its innovative use of plan and space. Note especially the completely unusual staircase in the great hall which winds around, through and is supported by the chimney stack!

APPENDIX J

Comparisons of Rommerdall's Houses

The following is a list of the specific and/or similar details found at the Lapham-Patterson House and at the three known Rommerdall creations still standing in Thomasville, compiled by R. Martin Willett in April of 1977, while curator of the site.

Hopkins House, 229 Remington Avenue; Jack Martin, present owner

1. Third-floor cupola/tower
2. Decorative and colored brickwork of chimneys
3. Identical plaster cornice and light molding in both houses' front halls
4. Plaster arches of identical design
5. Bevel technique on front porch decorative woodwork
6. Protective, decorative pine mar bars on plaster corners similar
7. Double front door paneling identical
8. Pointed bay found on Gottwals' Highlands, N.C., home
9. Painted bright yellow originally
10. Parlor mantel in Eastlake style like Lapham's dining room sideboard (sold to State by Alice Patterson Stevens)

Mason House, 116 Colton Avenue; Tom Gay, present owner

1. Third-floor billiard room
2. Recessed molding decoration in porch columns found on Lapham-Patterson's second-floor porch and Frank Hopkins House
3. Odd-shaped, angular rooms throughout house
4. Bevel-and-groove design of stair newel post, also in Frank Hopkins and Gottwals' houses
5. Staircase similar in pitch and design
6. Identical narrow-beaded paneling used
7. Eastlake-style mantels with burlled walnut inlay similar to Lapham's Eastlake furniture
8. Use of bay effect to break up proportion
9. Decorative shingling on exterior
10. Painted bright yellow originally, known as "Yellow Jacket"

MacIntyre Building, 103 South Broad Street; Fran's Ice Cream Parlor, present owner

1. Third-floor "crown" for skylight windows
2. Highly decorative metal ceiling similar to Lapham-Patterson
3. Decorative exterior brickwork has identical "stacked" design
4. Identical cantilever effect on colored-glass window bay
5. Flash-colored glass window in law office identical
6. Colored-glass window identical design
7. Identical plaster arch

8. Window and door casings identical with bull's-eye-type concentric circles and cut design
9. Identical marbled-slate mantel with identical bevel decoration
10. Painted brick fireplaces with identical brickwork design
11. Odd-shaped, angular rooms in law office
12. Asymmetrical design
13. Narrow-beaded paneling identical
14. Identical beaded wainscoting
15. Identical technique of over-painted glass panes on interior doors with identical etched design
16. Identical bevel and design of stair and newel post

Ballowe-Quinn House

1. Window and door casings identical with bulls-eye-type concentric circles and cut design
2. Third-floor "game" room and "tower"
3. Narrow beaded paneling identical to other houses
4. Asymmetrical room arrangement
5. Two-story central octagon plan
6. Curved plaster details and curved walls
7. Window and door casings identical to the Lapham-Patterson House
8. Carved wood fireplaces (in Eastlake style?)
9. Weatherboarding identical to Henry Hopkins House
10. Interior plaster and ceiling mouldings similar to Lapham-Patterson
11. Porch ornamentation similar to Lapham-Patterson House

APPENDIX K

Webb's Thomasville Directory, 1886

The following are listings for those persons whose names appeared in Webb's Thomasville Directory in 1886 as being in the architectural and building trades:

CarpentersPage 34

Martin Alexander
Christopher C. Atkinson

Page 35

Wiley W. Beasley
Thomas Bennett*
John Bentley*
Joseph O. Benton

Page 36

Isaac Bowen
John E. Brake

Page 37

Robert E. Bruce

Page 38

A.C. Chamberlin (C&B)
Charles W. Chase (C&B)

Page 40

James Dekle
James G. Dekle (C&B)

Page 41

John W. Dixon
James Drake (C&B)

Page 43

William Fitzgerald

Page 44

William P. Girardeau

Page 45

J.W.D. Gray
James Gribbon (C&B)

Page 47

William Henderson* & Hilliard
Rawls*
Henderson & Rawls (repairing
and building)
Alonzo Hobbs (C&B)

Page 50

Marshall Jones

Page 51

William M. Knight
Abraham Lemar*
Charles Leonard*
Harry Levick (C&B)

Page 52

Henry Lovett*
James Lowry

Page 53

James W. Mallard
John W. Mallard
John McClaim

Page 54

Thomas McNear
William Miles
Alexander Miller
James Miller, Jr.
John R. Miller

[Note: All above are listed as carpenters except those shown as "C&B," which are carpenters and builders. Those denoted by an asterisk are identified as blacks.]

Carpenters (continued)Page 55

Joseph R. Mitchell*
Rema Mitchell*

Page 56

William Moore*
Francis Morris*
Jasper Myers

Page 57

Richard Paine*

Page 60

John Rhodes (C&B)
John M. Rhodes
Riggsby

Page 61

Tudor Rommerdall (A&B)
J.S. Salmons (C&B)

Page 62

James C. Shaw
John Slaughter

Page 63

Cuffy Smith*
Edward Smith*

Page 64

Francis M. Stallings
W.H. Stallings (C&B)
Allen Stewart

Page 67

William A. Troxell

Page 68

William E. Ward (A&B)

Page 69

Alexander White
Wilson Wiggins*

Page 70

Frank Withington

Page 48

Samuel Jeffers
Samuel Jeffords

[Note: "A&B" denotes architect and builder.]

Carpenters and BuildersPage 75

A.C. Chamberlin
Charles W. Chase
James G. Dekle
James Drake
Henderson & Rawls
Alonzo Hobbs
Harry Levick

John Rhodes
Tudor Rommerdall
[also listed as an architect]
J.S. Salmons
W.H. Stallings
William W. Ward
[also listed as an architect]

ContractorPage 75

Lucas F. Thompson & Co.

Dealers in Building MaterialsPage 74

Luther F. Thompson & Co. Jackson St., near City Hall

Dealers in House Furnishing GoodsPage 78Luther F. Thompson & Co.
James S. Silva (124 Broad St.)Page 63Smith, _____ (Achilles & Redden) Hardware and House Furnish-
ing GoodsFurniture CompaniesPage 76Luther F. Thompson & Co. C.H. Young
George W. ForbesLumberPage 57

W.F. Moss, agent for Enterprise Planing Mills

Ad claimed to have lumber "Always on hand;" "We will furnish
[with lumber, frames, trim, etc.] buildings from sills up"Page 80ENTERPRISE PLANING MILL, Madison [St.] n[ear] Remington
av[enue], W.F. MOSS, AgentExcelsior [Planing Mill], Jefferson [St.] c[orner] Stevens
[St.], Edward O. Thompson proprietor

Masons, Brickmasons and Bricklayers

Page 39
George Cole*

Page 50
William C. Jones
Ernest T. Kendrick

Page 55
James R. Mitchell
Thomas G. Mitchell

Page 56
Joseph Moore
Judge Moore

Page 57
John Parnell

[Note: * denotes blacks]

Paint Dealer

Page 80

Luther F. Thompson & Co.
Agent for Lucas Paint Co.

Painters

Page 35
George L. Bean

Page 40
Peter E. Crisline

Page 45
W.J. Gray

Page 48
John B. Jackson

Page 50
James Jones

Page 51
Robert C. Lambert

Page 54
John McKinnon

Page 57
John Pallard

Page 58
Edward Plumstead

Page 59
John Prevatt
J. Rainier

Page 62
Washington Scott

Page 68
Charles Walters*

Page 70
James L. Wolcott
Walter R. Wolcott

[Note: * denotes blacks]

Plasterers

Page 35
Jerry Bennett*

Page 56
John Moore

Page 39
William Cook

[Note: * denotes blacks]

Plumber and Gasfitter

Page 44
Robert H. Giles

Supplier of Doors, Sashes and Blinds

Page 75
Luther F. Thompson & Co.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

A great deal of preliminary research was done during the time which John A. Patterson was curator of the Lapham-Patterson House site, and the originals of his correspondence and the replies he received can be found in the curator's office files at the site. Several of these letters which were considered vital clues to my research have been selected for inclusion in this bibliography. Patterson's research notebook is an interesting study of the trials and tribulations of research and the many wrong turns one makes before the right path is opened. Without his work during his years as curator, this present work would have proven more difficult.

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*Carver, Eva Patterson, Decatur, Georgia, summer of 1977, with the author.

Cook, Mrs. Margaret Fleming, Thomasville, Georgia, summer of 1977, with the author.

Counts, Mrs. John M., Leighton, Alabama, summer of 1977, with the author.

Cox, Ashley P., Jr., Macon, Georgia, summer of 1977, with the author.

Doherty, Mrs. Donna Rommerdall, Cicero, Illinois, March 18, 1977, with the author.

Eaves, Judson O., Atlanta, Georgia, March 4, 1977, with the author.

Edwards, Leila Patterson, Quitman, Georgia, summer of 1977, with the author, and two transcripts of interviews in September, 1977, with her son, L.B. Edwards, Jr., and transcript of one done by L.B. Edwards, Jr., July 18, 1971.

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- *Elms, Mrs. Harriet Larmon, Highlands, North Carolina, fall of 1977, with the author.
- *Gandy, T.C., and his sister, Mrs. Harry L. Hershey, Thomasville, Georgia, January 26, 1977, with the author.
- Getz, James R., Lake Forest, Illinois, winter of 1977, with the author.
- Haworth, Helen, Paw Paw, Michigan, April 15, 1977, with the author.
- Horton, Mrs. Louis S., Anderson, South Carolina, March 30, 1977, with the author.
- *Kirkley, Carl, East Point, Georgia, summer of 1977, with the author.
- Lanigan, Jimmie Patterson, Thomasville, Georgia, summer of 1977, with the author.
- *Lanigan, John, Atlanta, Georgia, fall of 1977, with the author.
- Lapham, Mrs. Charles W., Jr. (Margaret I. O'Sullivan), Los Angeles, California, spring, 1976-summer, 1977, with the author.
- Lesy, Dr. Michael, while visiting Atlanta, winter of 1977, with the author.
- *Lyon, Elizabeth A.M., Atlanta, Georgia, fall of 1977, with the author.
- Mason, A.H., descendants of, Thomasville, Georgia, spring of 1977, with R.M. Willett.
- Mogensen, Mrs. Blanche Larmon, Redwood City, California, fall of 1977, with the author.
- Morrison, Carlton A., Brunswick, Georgia, March 4, 1977, with the author, and a follow-up letter related to this conversation.
- Moysey, Bess Patterson, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, August 19, 1977, with the author.
- Newberry, Mrs. Julius (Marjorie S. Patterson), Whigham, Georgia, August of 1977, with the author; some of her information was confirmed later in writing.
- O'Connor, Mrs. Edith Sturgis, Remsenburg, New York, March 14, 1977, with the author.
- Patterson, James Lloyd, Quitman, Georgia, summer of 1970, with his daughter Mrs. Bernard Lanigan, and other family members. These taped interviews are in possession of the Lanigan family of Thomasville, and have been partially abstracted by them for the author.
- Reid, Dr. J.W., Thomasville, Georgia, June 28, 1977, with the author.
- *Runnion, David A., Atlanta, June of 1977, with the author.

Spangle, Frieda Patterson, Thomasville, Georgia, summer of 1977, with the author.

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